INSIDE TODAY

THE EYE

Rupert **Everett** back on London stagein drag



17/FASHION



Autumn weaves turn to gold

TODAY'S NEWS

Soya could replace the pollution of plastic

Once upon a time, soya beans were going to feed the world - and, indeed, they are now used as ingredients in many supermarket foods. But now soya oil could save the world again, by replacing plastics made from fossil fuels to build cars and even bridges. A team of scientists at a US university have just patented a technique which uses soya bean oils, instead of petroleum, to make cheap, light and "renewable" composite materials. The new materials are already being used to build tractor parts, and their chief inventor said yesterday that they could easily replace metal parts in cars, such as body panels, without sacrificing strength. Page 7

Hitler's eyrie becomes research centre

The remains of Adolf Hitler's alpine retreat, the Berghof, on the slopes of the Obersalzburg above Berchtesgaden, where Mussolini and Chamberlain were guests and where Hitler planned his invasion of the Soviet Union, is to be converted into a historical document centre in order to prevent the site from turning into a neo-Nazi haunt. Page 12

China freedom demos

When Jiang Zemin, the Chinese leader, arrives at the White House for the formal part of this week's summit today, he will be greeted by several thousand demonstrators, many of them Chinese exiles, and a copy of the Goddess of Democracy - the homemade Statue of Liberty built by student protesters that was smashed by Chinese tanks in Tiananmen Square eight years ago. Page II

SEEN & HEARD

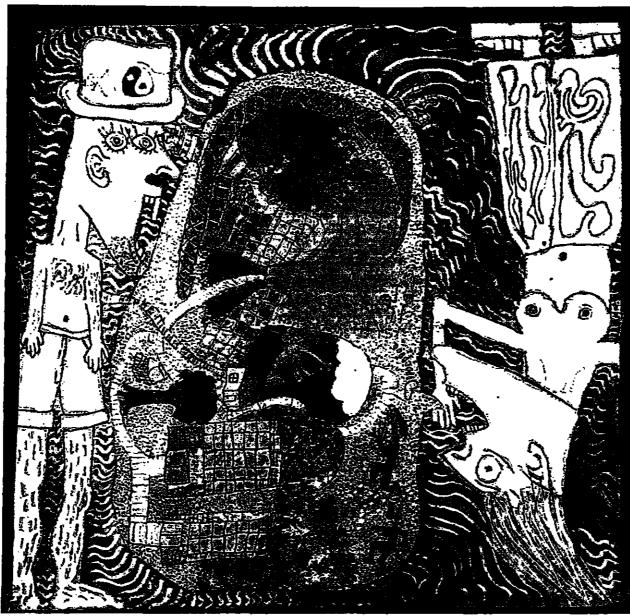
Hedgehogs are no different from the rest of us when it comes to wanting a warm bed for the night but it seems that some of them are taking things too far. Birmingham council has drafted in a team of hightech k-ray operators to seek out hedgehogs who try to hibernate in bonfires before they are lit next Wednesday, John Needle, the head of the city's Nature Reserve, said they like to snuggle down for the winter in piles of leaves and twigs and with 5 November fast approaching they risk meeting a fiery end. Setting fire to Guy Fawkes is OK, but roasting hedgehogs is a bit cruel.



WEATHER The Eye, TELEVISION The CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk

Child's work, yes, but better than the Turner shortlist



Youth culture: Island People, by 12-year-old Tommy Heap, part of the Young Visions' art exhibition which opens on 7 November at Islington arts factory, north London, featuring work by children aged 8 to 16 Turner controversy, page 14

Markets flip back again

After another turbulent day in world stock markets which saw the Dow Jones in the US stage a remarkable recovery, Jeremy Warner reflects on whether we are seeing a short term correction to overvalued share prices or a more significant fall.

The question on everyone's lips in the City was the same; is this just a mild repeat of 1987 with shares falling before bouncing back to even greater heights, or is it more serious, with the present turnoil marking the return of the bear after the great bull market of the 1980s and 1990s?

As opinion shifted one way and the other, investors were subjected to a roller coaster ride. New York's slide on Monday night was translated into falls of up to 20 per cent in emerging markets across the world and some big - though less spectacular - slides in Western European stock markets.

But as the day wore on, confidence grew. When the Dow opened, it quickly recaptured some of its lost ground with many market analysts making a distinction between the shaky economies of the Pacific had become "overvalued", to use the jar-

Rim and the underlying strengths of the US

and European economies. Against the backdrop of a boom in the US and the UK, and with the rest of Europe moving swiftly out of recession, few investors are prepared to believe that stock markets there should be experiencing any more than a small correction.

Unfortunately stock markets have never been an exact mirror image of the real economy. Equally unfortunately, they can exert a marked influence over it. As one leading London based market operator said yesterday, "there's no particular reason for markets to have a big fall right now but if they do and panic sets in, then there could be a slump in consumer and investment confidence and that might drive the US economy into recession".

When stock markets are at their extremes, greed and fear become the over riding instincts. During the upswing, greed reigns supreme. Tempted by apparently fabulous returns, investors flock to the market, driving it to unsustainable heights. A speculative bubble builds up, fed by ever more unrealistic expectations of growth in the economy and corporate earnings.

Most observers agree that Wall Street .

gon, but they differ on the extent of the correction needed to return to

The downswing, when fear begins to grip the market and the bubble bursts, can be equally exaggerated the other way with panic selling driving stock prices to unjustified lows. The effect on the real economy, particularly in the US, where more than 30 per cent of the population directly invests in the stock market, can be profound.

When a stock market crash erodes the savings of these investors, it invariably damages consumer demand by making the difference between buying that extra TV, new washing machine, or latest laptop. That in turn can lead to a slump in investment.

Few believe that this is what is going to happen in the US this time round. "The prospects of a recession look remote", says Paul Manduca, chief executive of Threadneedle Asset Management. "The big unknown is the degree to which people have been silly and borrowed heavily to finance their stock purchases, or over extended themselves in derivative markets. But at this stage, it looks like just a quick correction". Everyone hopes he's right.

> Further reports, page 4 Business, page 22,23

Revealed: nanny's hard contract

trial reached its final stages yesterday. It has been the trial of someone who went to America a willing and experienced child minder, but with teenage dreams of adventure in the US. However, the reality was different. David Usborne reveals details of her contract, which included curfews, cleaning, cooking and

Louise Woodward's

Just days before 4 February, the day when Matthew Eappen lapsed into a fatal coma, his parents, Sunil and Deborah, presented Louise Woodward, their young nanny from England, with a new contract. It coolly laid down the terms of her continuing employment with them. For Louise, it was take it - or leave.

washing.

The document is a startling litarry of do's and dont's. Probably, it fairly reflects the frustrations felt by the Eappens with a nanny who they felt was forever late coming in at night, late starting work and insufficiently attentive

of their two children. Indeed, it was composed by Sunil Eappen after he returned home from work early one day in late January only to find 9-month-old Matthew ing room floor and his big brother Brendan watching a video while Louise was in the basement doing her personal laundry.

By most measures, however, it is an unusually tough interpretation of what a teenage girl should be ex-

pected to do for a family on her gap-year between school and university. She may have come with a nanny tag, but in fact she should never have been seen as more than a glorified baby-sitter.

Louise was, for example, being paid \$115 a week (about £73), substantially beneath the Massachusetts minimum wage.

"During the times that you are responsible for the children for child), you are considered to be 'on duty'.' the one-page contract says, adding later: "This time is to be used entirely for the wellbeing of the children and not for personal reasons. You will not be on the phone for periods greater than 5 minutes. You will not do your laundry. You will not be us-

ing the computer". The note goes on: "You should be available one night per week where you will make dinner, we will be able to discuss any concerns of plans for the past or future week". Louise testified that on these nights she often cooked the Eappens beans on toast.

Your expected responsibilities include doing the children's laundry, changing the sheets once a week. Keeping their room tidy. Keeping the family room tidy; putting toys away, vacuuming. Emptying the diaper [nappy] pail as needed ... You are also expected to contribute to the general upkeep of the house, eg. putting dishes away after tying the dishwasher, etc"

Louise may not have been the perfect nanny, or even house guest. But nor was she indentured labour.

Trial closes, page 3 Au pairs in US disaster in the making, page 18

Why Are You Shamed

By Your **Mistakes**

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ble your powers of selfexpression. It can pay you real dividends in business and social easily be shown how to advancement, and give ensure that your speech you added poise, self-confidence and personal clear, correct. You can enorconfidence and personal effectiveness.

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What can we learn from it? Patience

John Kenneth Galbraith is the world's best-known economist and something of a liberal patriarch, whose best-known books have analysed capitalism and who produced a groundbreaking study of the 1929 Wall Street Crash. So we asked him what he made of the events of the past few days. Was there anything to be learned?

"One has first to answer the question - what was the nature of this whole insanity? And it is very simple. Stock prices were going up; people got on the wagon to get the benefit and that pushed them up fur-



which develops its own momentum until the eventual crash - which is predictable, but the timing of which is not predictable." He was not, he said, sur-

prised that the fall had started in the Asian markets. It South Sea Bubble ... to 1929 Would continued falls have any effect on the real economy, ther, and this is a process now would be depressive on in place after the computer-ac-more."

the economy. There will be a celerated crash of 1987, he was raft of comments today and in the days ahead, saying the of egregious nonsense." fundamentals are still strong.

"What will not be said is that a quarter of the people will be indirectly or directly involved in the market, so this has a direct effect, on sales of automobiles, hire-purchase, furniture, even fancy entertainments. The economy is not independent of the stock

Was there anything that could have been done to prevent the falls? "It was going to happen anyway: anybody with a sense of history knows that - from the Dutch and the tulip mania of the 1600s, to the

could have started anywhere. and 1987. This is all part of the pattern of history. As for the much-trumpetthough? Yes, said Professor ed system of market-breakers Galbraith: "The future effect to halt selling, which was put has been for 300 years and

elegantly dismissive: "A piece It was possible, Professor

Galbraith added, that the overvalued technology stocks in the US, which took a particular battering over the past few days, were our equivalent of the tulip bulbs that caused that first Dutch crash. People "latch on to some special group of stocks. In the last century, when there was runaway speculation, it was the railroads, before that, in the previous century, it was wonderful opportunities for trade in the South Seas."

Finally, was there any useful advice he could offer investors as they peer ahead, wondering whether the slide will continue? "None. My only advice is to see this as a natural feature of the system. It

COLUMN ONE

Dying woman wins right to take pain-relief drugs

After years of fighting against motor neurone disease. Annie Lindsell yesterday won comfort for her dying days. Evidence before the High Court gave her and her GP. Dr Simon Holmes, reassurance that his plans to relieve her pain in her final moments are legal. Although it fell short of the formal legal declaration that Ms Lindsell had sought, she stopped her case declaring that it was a victory for patients all over the

Speaking at a press conference in a faint but firm voice, Ms Lindsell of Teddington, south west London said: 'All the medical evidence before the court supported Simon in his view that the proposed treatment accords with accepted medical practice. I can now carry on with the rest of my life happily knowing that I have nothing to fear."

Ms Lindsell, who was diagnosed five years ago with the disease that affects 4,000 people a year, said she had brought the action because changes in the law towards voluntary euthanasia would come too late for her. The court heard that the former singer may have only weeks to live. She said that she hoped yesterday's judgment would bring hope to

fellow sufferers, although it was too late for some of her friends who had already suffered from a similar fate.

"Dr Holmes was rightly concerned about the lawfulness of giving me this treatment because of the risk of criminal prosecution for murder."

"I hope and believe that the efforts made by me, my doctor and my lawyers in this case bring an end to the unnecessary suffering inflicted upon unwilling patients by doctors fearful of being prosecuted under an uncertain law. It is a big victory for patient

said in court that the practice of doctors had been made clear by the House of Lords Select Committee four years ago. The committee had said it was permissible for GPs to relieve pain for terminal patients even if it shortened their lives. This is the so-called "double effect" doctrine where the primary intention is to alleviate the patient's suffering even if the secondary cause is to hasten their death.

Expressing a wish to meet Ms Lindsell, Sir Stephen said she could now receive the diamorphine treatment that everyone hoped that she could have. Dr Holmes ,who joined Ms Lindsell at the press conference, said that he was comforted and relieved by the medical evidence which had supported his planned action.

The treatment will start only with Ms Lindsell's consent and on Dr Holmes's clinical judgement when the distress of forced feeding and the fear of choking, a common problem for MND sufferers, becomes

- Michael Streeter

2i

, too much for her to bear. CONTENTS Shares Crash 20 Leader, Letters

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TOURIST RATES			
Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings)	2.32 19.76	Italy (lira) Japan (yen)	2, <i>77</i> 2 200.05
Belgium (francs)	58.09	Malta (lira)	0.62

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PEOPLE



Bowie reaps rich reward from golden years

He may find it difficult to reach the top of the charts SA, were set up, and Stenton SA was formed to hanthese days, but David Bowie (above) has leapt to the dle film projects and video distribution deals and Isotop of the British pop wealth charts with a personal fortune of more than half a billion pounds.

his fortune overseas to avoid crippling tax demands, and his ground-breaking decision to float himself on the stock market. Bowie now boasts a £550m fortune. Even more crucially, Bowie is one of the few international pop stars who owns all the rights to his songs. He comes ahead of Sir Paul McCartney, Britain's second richest pop star with a fortune of £520m, and Tom Jones who comes in third with

The creator of Major Tom and Ziggy Stardust is now among the 25 richest men in Britain, according to Business Age magazine's first ever survey of pop wealth - equally as rich as former newspaper tycoon Tiny Rowland, and marginally behind international financier George Soros.

According to the magazine, Bowie began turning stardom into serious money in the early Eighties when he first put on his businessman hat and signed for EMI America. By 1983, when he signed his most successful album deal of £10m for Let's Dance with EMI America, his personal fortune was already more than

His own song publishing companies, Jones Music SA, Bewlay Brothers SA and Tintoretto Music

tar to promote his world tours. Bowie, together with his supermodel wife, Iman, uprooted all his companies Partly as a result of his decision to invest much of to Switzerland where there is no tax payable on net profits. The success of Let's Dance was phenomenal and during his world tour to promote the album, Bowie kept his musicians on a tight leash, paying then £1,000 a week plus expenses.

This year alone, it is estimated that Bowie has made £60m. He received a flat fee of £1.5m for just one concert in Los Angeles in May 1983 where he was seen by 2.5 million fans and, after expenses, is estimated to have pocketed nearly £10 a head - reportedly more than any other performer.

In 1986, Bowie reached another milestone when all the rights from his previous Mercury and RCA albums were reverted back to him. And this year he broke new financial ground in the music industry by raising \$55m (£34m) in a bond issue put together by a United States investment firm and it is understood that capital repayments are secured from Bowie's compositions and recordings up to 1989.

Outside the Spice Girls, only two women feature in the top 50 on the pop wealth charts - Annie Lennox and Kate Bush, who come 34 and 38th respectively. At 20 years old, Spice Girl Emma Bunton is the youngest member in the top 50.

--- Jojo Moyes

McAleese looks unbeatable for **President**

The Belfast-born academic, Mary McAleese (right) looks unbeatable going into tomorrow's Irish Presidential election, according to the latest polls.

The growing margin over her nearest rival, up 4 per cent to 15 per cent in under a week, was revealed as gardai arrested a former political adviser to a junior minister in the last Fine Gael-led coalition government at his west Dublin home.

Detectives are investigating a breach of Ireland's Official Secrets Act in the leak of confidential 1994 Department of Foreign Affairs documents detailing contacts between British and Irish officials...

The poll findings show Mrs McAleese has survived and even gained from the bitter controversy dominating the last fortnight of campaigning sparked by two press leaks of sensitive official briefing papers detailing her role in highlevel Northern Ireland political contacts.

The documents prompted accusations that she had Sinn Fein sympathies, which she strongly



rejected. The row was given added fuel by a public endorsement for her from that party's President, Gerry Adams. As some suggested the Irish Civil War was breaking out again, those who sprang to her defence included Unionist MP

The episode in fact reinforced her credentials as a serious political figure by showing hands-on involvement in the peace process. It led to Fianna Fail voters rallying around her, ending rifts caused by her selection ahead of the formertaoiseach. Albert Reynolds.

The latest poll, for the Irish Independent, gave Mrs McAleese, a law professor and Channel 4 director, 49 per cent of first preference votes against 32 per cent for her main rival, Mary Banotti, a Conor Brady. Fine Gael MEP.

by Chris Priestley

The former singer, Dana Rosemary Scallon, and the Left's candidate, Adi Roche, both have 7 per cent. The sole male candidate.

Derek Nally, an outspoken former Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors leader, and founder of the Victim Support charity, has five per cent. Ms Banotti should secure Nally and Roche second-preference votes, but these alone will not enable her to overtake Mrs McAleese. Mr Nally faded after falling

out with advisers who wanted a trenchant assault on Mrs. McAleese (claiming she had been "colonised by Gerry Adams") and on diplomacy some see as appeasing Sinn Fein.

Adi Roche's support suffered a met-down after hitting a peak of 38 per cent last month. A national heroine for aiding child victims of Chernobyl, she never recovered from attacks on her allegedly "Stalinist" management style by excolleagues.

The media portraved her as a gadfly lightweight, comparing her with PG Wodehouse's daffy Madeleine Basset.

The tone of press coverage sparked a vitriolic spat between Labour's policy director, Fergus Finlay, and Irish Times editor.

- Alan Murdoch

7.30 FOR 8

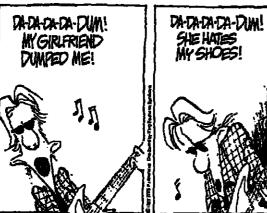
ZITS

Technology News

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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







Johnny Cash has Parkinson's disease

The country and western singer, Johnny Cash, has Parkinson's disease, his publicist said on Monday. Cash, 65, has cancelled a national book-signing tour and postponed upcoming concerts because of his worsening medical condition, the publicist, Heidi Ellen Robinson, said in a statement. Ms Robinson quoted Cash's manager, Lou Robin, as saying, "Johnny feels confident that once the Parkinson's is medically stabilised, he can resume his normal work schedule.'

Known as country music's "Man in Black", Cash has recorded 1,500 songs and appeared on 500 albums. He has won eight Grammys, the latest - for best contemporary folk album - for a 1994 release, American Recordings.

Cash was touring to promote his book Cash: The Autobiography and was to have given concerts keyed to his latest compact disc. Unchained, Ms Robinson said. In the early Fifties .Cash began singing country music, and in 1955, while working as an appliance salesman in Memphis, Tennessee, he auditioned for the legendary Sun Records label. The result was his first hit, "Hey Porter." which was quickly followed by "Folsom Prison Blues", "I Walk the Line" and other hits marked by his distinctive voice and no-frills arrangements. After winning practically every country music award, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative brain disorder that causes muscle tremor, stiffness and weakness. Its cause is unknown and there is no cure, but drugs can relieve its symptoms.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

Public supports schizophrenics

The public supports caring for people with schizophrenia in the community, although they still largely associated the illness with violence and aggression. A MORI poll of 1,800 people also revealed a high level of optimism about how well schizophrenia can be managed.

More people are aware of schizophrenia than they were seven years ago and in the poll it was the most frequently mentioned mental illness, spontaneously cited by 50 per cent of adults, compared with 18 per cent in 1990. More than seven out of ten believed that with appropriate medicine and careful support people with schizophrenia can live successfully in the community. The most important ways health and social services can help is by providing medication, supportive local counselling and information to carers. Only 12 per cent felt that people with the disease should be kept

in mental institutions. Julian Left, Professor of Social Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, said this was a "most encouraging finding". However 14 per cent spontaneously listed violent and aggressive behaviour as a characteristic of schizophrenia. The figure rose to 46 per cent when people were prompted to give an answer.

.... Gienda Cooper

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Overdosing on the Spice Girls

It probably will not worry the Spice Girls, or their bank managers, but the public has had enough of them putting their name to everything from Pepsi Cola to Asda. Two thirds of the country believes they have sold their names to too many products for their very expensive endorsement deals

According to a CIA MediaLab survey, 84 per cent of the public say their purchasing decisions are unaffected by a celebrity endorsement. However, the survey only asked adults and most of the products endorsed by the Spice Girls - like Chupa Chup lollipops and Walkers Crisps - are aimed at the under-tens. The results have emerged a day before the five-piece band is due to launch the Royal British Legion's annual poppy day

-Paul McCann

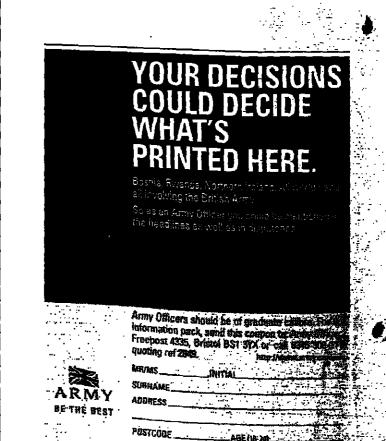
PUBLIC HEALTH

Experimenting can harm your health



Novelty condoms do not provide adequate protection against sexually transmitted diseases and are not recommended for use as a contraceptive, the Government has warned. The Public Health Minister, Tessa Jowell, said in a Commons written reply that her department advised people to use only condoms which carried the British Standards Institute Kitemark or the European CE mark. Novelty condoms were not classed as medical devices under the Medical Devices Regulations and the Government could not use these rules to restrict their availability, she said.

However, the minister declared: "Any confusion and risk to health caused by novelty condoms being mistaken for genuine condoms would come within the scope of the General Product Safety Regulations, which are enforced by local authority trading standards officers." She added: "We have not received any representations from the medical profession or Aids charities to discuss novelty condoms, but we would be happy to consider such a request if approached."



All williams

Just imagine... a new town, an airport and cruise liners calling here

Far North is being proposed to stop the lifeblood draining from the remotest corner of the Highlands. Wild pipe-dream or panacea? Stephen Goodwin reports on an extraordinary regeneration plan.

Pports schizoph

Not for nothing is Sutherland known as "Mamba" land miles and miles of bugger all. It is the British mainland's most far-flung county and the most sparsely populated area in the European Union, truly a place to escape the stress-

es of urban living.
For visitors this is its attraction but for decades its population has drifted south for work and the trappings of urban life. So concerned has a group of councillors become that they have proposed building an entirely new town. ness, burgeoning capital of the marina and theatre.

A Milton Keynes of the Highlands. It would be served by new roads, a rail link, an international airport and a port for cruise liners.

Caithness West Community Council believes only a "radical" solution will deal with deprivation in the "North and West Arc", stretching from Fort William, round the top of Britain, to Wick. The proposal is its contribution to a review of Highland Council's structure plan and will now be assessed by specialist officers.

Terry Jones, secretary of the community council, said that, if treated seriously, the town could be taking shape in 10 years. It would not be in the county of Caithness itself but farther west, by the sea lochs of Sutherland.

There are only 16,000 people in the whole of Sutherland but councillors say people and industries such as telebanking and call centres would be attracted by the natural environment and faof up to 40,000 people, to act cilities - shops, conference as a counterweight to Inver- centre, hotels, golf courses,



Remote control: Sutherland, the British mainland's most far-flung county and the most sparsely populated area in the European Union, which is Photograph: Glyn Satterley/Colorific attempting to stop the drift of its population south in search of work and the trappings of urban life

INTHE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

IN THE EYE



Mark Jones: big noise behind the Wall of Sound



Gobsmacked by the Gogmagogs



Una Stubbs: a most unexpected Lady Bracknell

Lawyers play for final-act drama

Do not expect this to be like the movies, Judge Hiller Zobel cautioned members of the jury in the Louise Woodward case as they heard closing arguments. But as David Usborne witnessed, lawyers_ delivered a closing act more thrilling, more emotionally draining, than anything produced by Hollywood.

With earnestness that occasionally edged into Vaudeville melodrama, both the defence and the prosecution teams yesterday made their last, frantic, pitches to the jury in the Louise

Woodward murder trial. "Send her home," said the defence. Disbelieve this "aspiring little actress", cried the prosecution.

For the defence, Barry Scheck furiously indicted the doctors at the Boston Children's Hospital who treated Matthew Eappen on 4 February, the day on which Louise is accused of killing him. Those doctors, he said, who later became the witnesses for the state, made a reckless rush to judgement in asserting that the injuries to the boy's head were fresh and by implication were afflicted by the defendant.

The crux of the defence is that the boy suffered an earlier head injury that only manifested itself and suddenly became critical on that day. The prosecution, however, contends that the injury, which led to catastrophic neurological distress and death five days later, had to be the work of Louise.



Laying into Eli Newberger, who heads the child abuse division at the hospital and who insisted that abuse was present in this case, Mr Scheck exclaimed: "What you have is a snap judgment taken less than 24 hours after the patient was admitted, that this was a fresh

caused by an impact equivalent to a fall from 15ft." "When you give an opinion

like that, then you lock her up," he went on, gesturing almost maniacally to the defendant sitting behind him, "and you are locked into that opinion. Don't bother me with the facts." The high emotion of Mr Scheck, who crashed his fist into the lectern in his anger, was at least matched, however, by the lead prosecutor, Gerard Leone. For the first time, and in the most vivid terms possible, Mr Leone ended by spelling out for all her reason on 4 February with a young baby who would not stop crying.

"He is fussy and cranky. Why? Because she has been a little rough with him. She brings Matty to the bathroom. Boom, she drops him to the floor. Do

injury and a scull fracture you think she's any less fussy now? No, of course not ... It is a slippery, set, cranky, fussy Matty Eappen now ... She grabs Matty and she shakes him because he won't stop crying ... He doesn't know that shaking means stop crying ... She keeps shaking him some more, she keeps shaking, she now takes him and slams his head down.

Matty Eappen is not crying any

Without notes and pacing up

and down before the jury box for a full hour, Mr Leone achieved a level of intensity not seen from the prosecution previously in this trial. With his words in their ears and those of the defence still a resonating echo, the jurors retired to begin their deliberations after the lunch break. Of the original group of 16, four men were balloted out leaving a panel of nine women and three men.

NANNIES VERSUS AU PAIRS

Claire Morton has been named Britain's top nanny for her calm organisational skills and ability to fill her family's home with bath-time giggles. As the Louise Woodward trial drew to a conclusion, Louise Jury heard nannies and parents express surprise that the Eappens had left their baby in the care of an

Claire Morton, 34, received the Nanny of the Year award from The Lady magazine yesterday, and named energy, enthusiasm and organisation as the qualities all nannies needed. The work was "great fun", although looking after

unqualified 18-year-old.

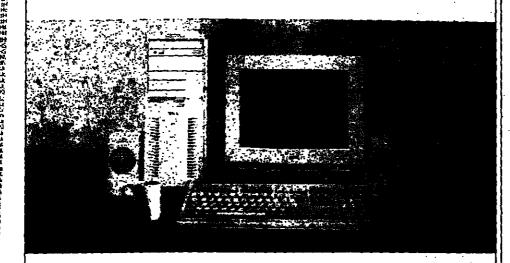
a new-born child could be difficult because of the isolation.

Unwilling to be drawn into the speculation surrounding the Woodward case, she none the less said she was "surprised" that Deborah and Sunil Eappen had been happy to leave their son Matthew with Louise. "An au pair is supposed to help out the mother, not be in sole charge. They are supposed to do fewer hours, that's why the salary is quite low," she said.

However, as Miss Morton received her silver salver and £1,000 cheque, one of the judges was much more forthright in her criticisms

"It is terribly cruel to visit any blame on the parents," said Anne Diamond, the television presenter. "But I think they were getting cheap labour. It sounds to me as if Louise Woodward was doing the job of a qualified person."

Recommended by PC Pro.



PC Pro Magazine only gave one home computer its highly coveted Recommended Award for November*: it was the Dell Dimension** XPS D300 MT. Beating the competition hands-down, it earned the verdict of "an extremely good value, feature packed PC that offers cutting edge technology for under £2.000." It has everything you need - in a home computer that won't grow out-of-date quickly. But you won't find the Dimension XPS D300 MT in any computer store: to bring you the latest technology, we only build our systems after you order. In fact. we're the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*. So call us now. And award yourself an award-winner.

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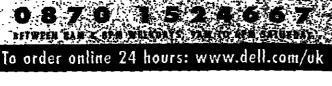
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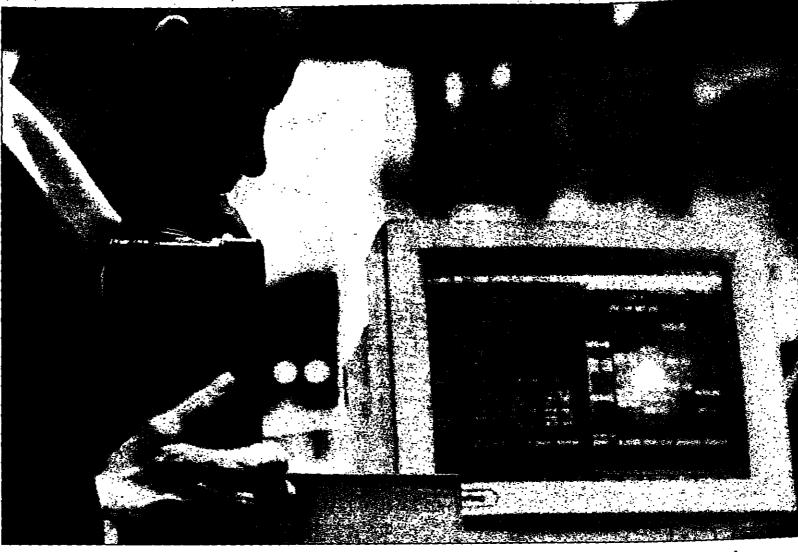




THE INDEPENDENT

4/THE CRASH

Small investors keep their fingers crossed amid the turmoil



Taking stock: John Bennet, of Bordesley Green, Birmingham, in the Sharelink shop in the city, dealing in his investments. Mr Bennet, who was Photograph: Sean Paget unemployed until recently, lived off his investment earnings for a year

As the stockmarket rollercoaster alternated between near-collapse and partial recovery, most phiegmatic small investors reacted in the way they know best - by doing nothing. But, as Nic Cicutti, Personal Finance Editor, found, not everyone followed the same course of

Puzzled staff on the dealing floor at Sharelink, the telephone-based stockbroker, wondered early yesterday why "sell" calls flooding into their office were coming almost exactly on the hour, every hour. Then the penny dropped.

beunniu.

The calls were coming from small shareholders, transfixed by the hourly bulletins on Ceefax, which showed the FT-SE 100 share index was plummeting at the start of the morning's trading. However, as the fall began to reverse itself, buyers started to come out into the open again.

selling on the back of the Ceefax changes, when the Footsie was initially 400 points off," a Sharelink spokesman said. "Typically, they appeared to be small investors, people who had just one or two blocks of shares from building-society de-mutualisations. The sentiment in the early morning was to sell. But by lunchtime, quite a lot of our more frequent traders were seeking buying opportunities. Things began to change a little, although it did not reach the volume of the selling. Although there was still a lot of money coming out of shares, the balance began to lev-

el off a bit." Despite the early spate of calls, most small investors sat on their hands, buying their advisers' and fund managers' argument that the falls seen in the in an otherwise upward curve for share prices over the past year. Mark Dear, a director at Holden Meehan, a firm of financial advisers in London. said his company had received relatively few panicky calls: "Most appear to understand

"There was a great deal of that they are in this for the long term and this kind of thing can happen occasionally." Even the neophytes appeared convinced, especially those who poured billions of pounds into "tracker" funds, which mimic the stockmarket's performance. In the past 30 months, track-

er funds have delivered spectacular performance, as the index of 100 top shares has powered ahead. First-time buyers of tracker PEPs were thought by many advisers to be the most those selling up. However, Martin Campbell, product development manager at Virgin Direct, the pile-em-high, sellem-cheap purveyor of telephone tracker PEPs, said: "We did receive about 1,300 calls, out of 200,000 clients we have. Many wanted to know what they should be doing, but only past few days were mere blips 14 said that they were considering selling up. A higher proportion asked if it would be possible for them to invest even more when markets were down and if we could accept

telegraphic transfers of cash." At Fidelity Brokerage, another retail broker, calls were double against normal levels by lunchtime, with sellers outnumbering buyers by five to one. But the company said yesterday its staff had noticed careful buying of FT-SE 100 stocks, as sellers cashed in their PEPs to move into carefully selected shares.

For millions of savers whose retirement income depends on the value of their pension funds, also heavily invested in equities, yesterday's falls also provoked few signs of nerves. likely to be in the front-line of Gavin Hill, managing director of National Mutual Life, a spemost personal pension savers were, by definition, long-term investors and should be prepared to accept occasional reversals in share prices, such as over the past few days.

Moreover, many pension providers, including National Mutual Life (NML), actively encourage their clients to move gradually out of equities in the last few years before retirement so as not to suffer the reversals seen yesterday. "The advantage of switching [to bonds] in the final years is that even though they may lose out on the potential up-swing, individuals do not suddenly find the value of their pension dropping dramatically at the last minute." Mr Hill said. About one third of NML's clients are automatically placed on such a scheme. As for those about to retire and buy an annuity with their lump sum, Peter Quinton, a director at the Annuity Bureau, said there would be little effect on the value of their income - as long as share prices do not con-

tinue to tumble. "Although bond prices have been rising - thereby cutting the income from the bonds - the value of annuities themselves has remained stable at present." Mr Quinton said.

People whose retirement is imminent should not be hit. But it is worth noting that if they were not in a protected fund in the final years before retirement and were simply 100 per cent invested in UK equities, the value of their pension fund would have decreased by 8 per cent. If they were 100 per cent invested in Hong Kong, the value of their fund would have dropped by 50 per cent over the past few weeks."

What to do when the market goes red

You are saving for the very long term. There is no alternative to what you are doing. Grit your teeth and keep funding your pension scheme.

If you are saving to pay off a house

The same applies. Remember, most endowment plans involve bonuses which once added to your policy cannot be taken away. There is a possibility that the final lump sum at maturity may be smaller, but if the market recovers over the next few months, it should not be materially less than it would already have been.

If you are a windfall shareholder

If you decided to hold your shares so far, the chances are that here too you were looking to the long term. In any event, they were free so all you have lost is a notional paper

profit. Hold on to the shares. If you are already an investor

Selling now would be a fatal mistake. The greatest failure of first-time investors is that they do the wrong things at the wrong time, investing when markets are riding high and pulling out when they are falling. If you have committed your money for the long-term, that is at least five to 10 years, stay put. In October 1987, share prices crashed through

the floor, but had mostly recovered by the year's end. At the end of 1987, prices were actually up 8 per cent compared to the beginning of the year.

If you are putting away regular monthly sums of

money Carry on investing. There is a peculiar process - "pound-cost averaging" - which can work in your favour. Essentially, it means that as prices fall, every pound you invest

buys more shares or units than

If you are considering making a lump sum investment Hold off awhile. Wait for a week or so to see if the stock market's uncertainty resolves itself. There will still be some good buying opportunities. Talk to an independent financial adviser about them. Unless you are looking at the very long term, at least 10-15 years, avoid the Far East for a while.



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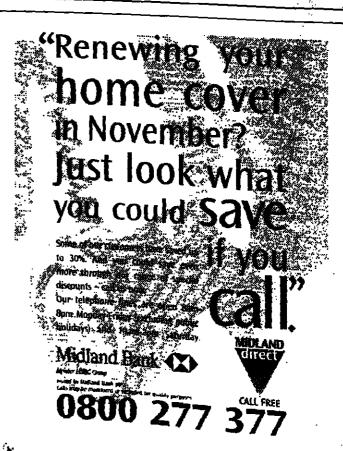
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ir fingen Revealed: Cheats who sell watered down meat

Leading supermarkets were 'named and shamed' yesterday for adding extra water to meat products without declaring it on the labels. Glenda Cooper, Consumer Affairs Correspondent, looks at how consumers are getting more information about the food we buy.

Sainsbury, Tesco and the Co-op were among the culprits accused of mislabelling pork products, in a list which was published by the Government yesterday.

It is the first time brandnames of products failing to meet standards in tests carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have been disclosed. Consumer groups welcomed the move, saying it enabled shoppers to make an informed choice.

In all, 16 out of 614 ham, bacon and gammon products tested either under-declared or did not label how much added water they contained. By law, raw cured meats with more than 10 per cent added water or cooked cured meats containing excess water after cooking must declare the extra water on the

Tesco was accused of failing to declare 18 per cent added water to its rindless back bacon. Tests on Sainsbury wafer-thin roast ham found 14.2 per cent added water, which was not declared. The Co-op's wafer-thin smoked ham contained 11.4 per

cent undeclared added water. Publishing the results, the Agriculture Minister, Jack Cunningham, said he hoped nam-

ing the brands would be enough to encourage more accurate labelling, which was "vitally important, to give consumers information and advice about the products they buy. There were some 16 cases

out of more than 600 samples. In fact, it's a remarkably good record for the industry. Less than 3 per cent of samples were not properly labelled," he

"I'm not suggesting these samples were wrong deliberately; there might have been errors in the production process. Whatever the reasons, we think it right the public should have this information," he added.

He said no further punitive action was planned against the

A spokesman for Tesco said they controlled the processes during manufacture very closely and he was "disappointed" by the failure of one of their suppliers to meet their own required standards.

But he added: "The test used by MAFF to analyse water content is notoriously inaccurate. It cannot be relied on to accurately reflect the water content to meat,

"A result of 16 per cent may be gained from meat with a water content of less than 10

"Trading Standards understand the problems of this analytic process and would not rely on it alone for enforce-

A spokesman for CWS said that as their two products, Wafer Thin Smoked Ham and



Porkies: Leading supermarkets were 'named and shamed', the first time brand-names of products failing to meet MAFF standards were identified

Ham, were sold loose, the information on water content was given on a label at the delicatessen counter rather than on the packaging used to wrap them by the shop assistants.

He said MAFF had put forward no evidence that the information had not been provided. Sainsbury claimed it had not seen the report, so could not comment on its pre-

But the store said it had its own regulations on declaring added water which were "more

Quality Cotswold Cooked stringent" than those required tests on the amount of water by law. added to whisky.

A spokeswoman for the Consumers' Association welcomed the Government's move: "The more information consumers have the better. We want labelling to be full and clear." A spokesman for the National Consumer Council said: "We welcome the naming and shaming because it is vital

an informed choice." The next published results are likely to be those from

that consumers have access to

information so they can make

In another move to free up the flow of information Dr Cunningham also announced plans to include lay representatives on all advisory committees which report to MAFF.

At the Institute of Grocery Distribution's conference in London, Dr Cunningham said he hoped to appoint members of the public to all the committees, including the Food Advisory Committee and the BSE advisory body SEAC, by

Call to get tough on farm pesticides

A row between the Government and a leading environmental group crupted yesterday over the levels of pesticides in vegetables.

Friends of the Earth called for the Prime Minister to get tough over farming practices after it claimed that a Government figures showed nine out of 10 lettuces are contaminated with chemicals, with 10 per cent breaching official guidelines.

But a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food immediately dismissed FoE's claims as "wrong and misleading" and said the true figure was 1 per cent.

The figures on chemicals and foods are listed in the Government's annual pesticide report, where lettuces sampled for the survey were bought from retailers during 1996.

The director of FoE, Charles Secrett, has written to Tony Blair asking him to ensure that the planned Food Agency, a new watchdog on food safety, has power to curb farmers.

FoE said the report states that levels on lettuces were twice the recommended maximum level, even if farmers stick to the

Government's guidelines. Pete Riley, food campaigner for FoE, said: "The public is told that eating greens is good for them yet many of them are contaminated by health-threatening toxic chemicals. Clearly, the Ministry of Agriculture is failing to protect the public. The Food Agency has to have authority over the way our food is produced, and that means the whole food chain - from the plough to the plate."

--- Genda Coobe

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Racism within the police force is still widespread, says a new report. Jason Bennetto and Petra Kendall explain how a government initiative aims to stamp it out.

Special tests to weed out racist and homophobic police officers are to be included in future entrance and promotion examinations under changes announced yesterday. The language used in recruitment interviews is also being altered after it was discovered to be biased against black and Asian candidates.

The reforms follow a thematic study by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary which found that racist and homophobic artitudes, the "canteen culture", was prevalent within the police. It also found that officers of sergeant and inspector rank were often "reluctant" to intervene or stop racist language and behaviour.

A Home Office working group has been set up to co-ordinate the Government's response to the report and to ensure the recommendations are carried out. Among the

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changes are new tests to be included in recruitment, selection and promotion boards to discover whether applicants hold racist or anti-gay attitudes.

Candidates, for example, could be asked how they would deal with racist language or actions. From January examinations to test new candidates are also to be altered to remove things such as racially biased slang and phrases that are open to misinterpretation.

The number of black and Asian officers in England and Wales has increased from 339 in 1981 to 2,319 in 1996 but this is still only 1.82 per cent of the total force, while ethnic people make up about 6 per cent of the population. There is also concern about the drop-out rate of young black recruits. The study concluded: "There was continuing evidence during the inspection of inappropriate language and behaviour by police officers, but even more worrying was the lack of intervention by sergeants and inspectors." It added: "Many ethnicminority officers felt unsupported by man-

The disproportionate number of ethnic minorities who were stopped and searched

Dan Crompton, HM Inspector of Constabulary, said: "You will not change the hearts and minds of some officers overnight, but you can regulate conduct." He added: "Yes, canteen culture is still pre-

sent." The report did, however, praise improvements the police have made in dealing with tackling racism in the past few decades. It also pointed out that members of ethnic communities are often the most unwilling to report crimes or help the police with information.

It was based on inspections in six forces Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Merseyside, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. In six months the inspectorate will do a follow-up study of 15 forces, including the Metropolitan Police. Jack Straw, Home Secretary, said: "I am determined to tackle racial discrimination wherever it is found and to ensure that there are good relations between the police and the community it serves."

The Black Police Association welcomed the report but stressed that it was vital that its recommendations were acted on and not just talked about.



Labour of love: One of four statues of Lord Wilson on display at Huddersfield Art Gallery as part of the selection for a memorial to the former prime minister in his home town

British millionaire escapes death row

A British millionaire has been taken off death row on the orders of a judge in Florida. But Kris Maharaj's conviction for the murder of two Miami business associates. in 1986 has been upheld and he must serve

The Independent revealed last month a life sentence. that new evidence was to be submitted to the court to show that Maharaj was framed for the killings. Judge Jerald Bagley, sitting in Miami, rejected the submissions. The one-time flamboyant racehorse owner was represented by Clive Stafford-Smith, the British lawyer who specialises in death row cases. After the verdict Mr Stafford-Smith said: "We must be grateful for small mercies but I think there was politics involved."

He said he would be seeking the support of the British government in pressing for the trial to be heard again.

Maharaj, 58, had spent 11 years on death row after being convicted of shooting Derrick Moo Young and his son Duane in a Miami hotel room. Born in Trinidad, he made his fortune setting up a fruit import

....lan Burrell.

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Cook bid to end stalemate over Lockerbie trial

A new initiative aimed at securing the trial in Scotland of the two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bornbing was announced yesterday by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. He told the House of Commons at question time that he had invited the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity to send a delegation to Scotland to show them its judicial system and discuss arrangements for a trial there

with international observers. The move is aimed at ending the stalemate under which Libya is refusing to extradite the two men for trial in Scotland or the US over the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which killed 270 people. The row over the issue deepened at the weekend when the South African president, Nelson Mandela, dramatically intervened in the dispute at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh, arguing that justice would not be seen to be done if a trial was held in Scotland.

Colleges in funding plea

A financial "sicklist" of one in five further education colleges is expected to lengthen following the axing of a pot of money for expansion in further education. A report by the National Audit Office says funding changes, which mean colleges' income is 3 per cent lower than expected this academic year, could prove damaging when combined with planned 5 per cent annual efficiency gains in further education.

College leaders yesterday renewed calls for an extra £230m in 1998-89, and questioned the feasibility of Tony Blair's vision of there being half a million extra students in further and higher education by the end of this Parliament if their concerns were not addressed.

Fashanu seeks trial costs

The former footballer and television presenter John Fashanu, who was acquitted of match-fixing charges earlier this year, Rights for his estimated £500,000 court costs. Mr Fashanu vesterday applied to the European Co lodged an application to the Commission in Strasbourg after the judge at his trial in August at Winchester Crown Court refused him public money for his defence.



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7/TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The soya bean car that will make rust a thing of the past

Would you drive a car made from soya beans? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains that in the future you might because American scientists have worked out how to make strong, light, cheap plastics from the plant's oils.

Once upon a time, soya beans were going to feed the world - and, indeed, they are now used as ingredients in many supermarket foods. But now soya oil could save the world again, by replacing metals and plastics made from fossil fuels to build cars and even bridges.

A team of scientists at a university in the United States has just patented a technique which uses soya bean oils, instead of petroleum, to make cheap, light and renewable" composite materials.

The new, rust-proof materials are already being used to build tractor parts, and their chief inventor said yesterday that they could easily replace metal parts in cars, such as body panels, without sacrificing strength. Such a replacement would offer savings both on fossil fuel extraction and car weight, which in turn would help to limit global warming: lighter cars need less fuel

"The soya composites can replace vinyl ester materials, which typically cost one or two dollars per pound," said Professor Richard Wool, of the chemical engineering department at the University of Delaware. "These cost about 30 to 50 cents



want - rubbery, thermoplastic, reinforced matrix, and so on. It would work beautifully

per pound, and come in 12 different polyesters, epoxies and vinyl esters consist ed from soya had the correct chemical structure a door-sized sample of an early version of

ferent resins, materials with different behaviour can be made. But Professor Wool, Modern composite molecules such as for 10 years, discovered that oils extract-largest farm equipment makers. It unveiled

terials on their own.

The first customer for the new soya comwho has been working on plastics chemistry posites is Deere & Co, one of the world's

varieties, depending on the property you of "chains" of atoms. By combining difof a hay baler, at a plastics industry con-

vention in Moline, Illinois, last month. Professor Wool said: "This first test part would replace standard metal-sheeting

materials. It would not corrode or rust, and

which is cheaper and longer lasting than the metalsheeting materials, has already been used to build a door-sized sample for motor manufacturers interested in developing the technology

it was made using a low-energy procedure that is far more benign than metal casting systems.

Future formulations could even be made to biodegrade under certain conditions, say the scientists. Ultimately, natural straw or hay fibres might even replace

the reinforcing glass matrix. Professor Wool said: "That only costs about 10 cents per pound. We're not offering it yet, but you could have engineered lumber. You could have a car made of engineered wood. It would look wonderful."

The idea of using soya beans in composite materials is not new - it was first proposed by Henry Ford, who first brought cars to the mass market, about 60 years ago. But until now its practical use has been limited to surface coatings, such as varnish.

The new process bonds the soya molecules more tightly together, providing structural strength.

Deere & Co predicts a £31m n... ket for farm equipment made from soy-based composites. But the market for vehicle parts could be enormous. And unlike standard plastics, it would be a renewable resource which could be boosted by more planting.

Bug tsar appointed to stop millennium computer crash

appointed a drug tsar. Now it has a bug tsar to head a team of experts encouraging British companies to act before the 'Millennium Bug' crashes computers on I January 2000. Charles Arthur asks why the man who was already doing the job was not appointed.

First the Government

The director-general Oftel, Don Cruickshank, will be result. appointed chairman of the Government's Action 2000 group one day a week to tackle the "millennium bug" computer problem.

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His appointment was announced yesterday by Barbara Roche, the minister for industry, who said: "There is considerable responsibility on him to make Action 2000 a success."

Yet the appointment could appear as a snub to Robin Guenier, who headed Taskforce 2000, the predecessor of Action 2000

Mr Guenier's offence, at least in the eves of the full-time job to raise public awareness of the trouble ahead for computer users.

Part of that awareness included an exclusive interview with The Independent in September, in which he said that "nobody (in the Government) seems to want to listen" and that he had so few funds — £250,000 for a nationwide awareness movement — that he did not even have a secretary for the last year. He described his operation as "one man and his cat".

Mrs Roche was stung into

However, Mr Guenier's reward is to have his government funding cut and be passed over for the job, which Mr Cruickshank will continue to do for a day a week even after he retires from Oftel next March.

The DTI yesterday justified its action saying: "the Government decided to have a new body and a new person with new impetus and more money to get business to turn awareness of this problem into action."

Action 2000 will have £1m of funding until next April, and probably the same amount each year for the next two years. The "millennium bug"

hospital systems, store the year digit number.

computers will crash at midnight on 31 December 1999 because they will think it is the year is 1900 instead of 2000.

Some financial institutions with projects that finish in the century already noted the effects on pensions and savings plans

Announcing Mr Cruickshank's appointment yesterday, Mrs Roche said: "For Action 2000 to be successful we need an experienced, well-respected chairman with a clear understanding of both the problem

She did not mention anything about not stirring up trouble for the Government, although that may be implied.

Department of Trade and arises because many computer Industry, seems to have been systems and chips in everyday that he was too effective in bis equipment, including lifts and

as a two-digit, rather than four-An unknown number of

during tests.

Mr Cruickshank's role will be to appoint a full-time chief for Action 2000 and ensure businesses take action against the bug as soon as possible.

and implications."

Mr Guenier was not available for comment, but the DTI said he looked forward to meeting Mr Cruickshank and discussing how they could

Internet will not replace the nation state, says academic

The impact of the Internet is not going to be as great as people have predicted, according to a study by academics.

Forecasts that it will lead to a "withering of the nation state" are incorrect, says Andrew Graham, an economist at Oxford University.

In a formal paper presented to a London conference, Professor Graham pointed out that the expectations of many people that the Internet will undercut countries' national boundaries is a myth, for a number of reasons.

The Internet will increase competition and this will [bring] some goods' prices down - but not all prices," he said. Food and perishable goods would still not be viable, while information and experience-based services can never have a perfect

Similarly, predictions that the Internet will generate its own money supply, or that capital flows will pass beyond nation states' government control, were misguided. People would never trust an unregulated, virtual market, free of the constraints, checks and balances of conventional financial



Fun and games: The internet has tremendous potential as entertainment, but its more serious uses may be limited

"Money needs to be regube nearly impossible for ordinary individuals to check on the credit-worthiness of a foreign bank. And it would be extremely inefficient for all of us

Regulation creates efficiency in this field. If the Inmoney - relatively unlikely any-

way - it would either need to be

regulated and supported, just

like any other form of banking. lated if it is to be used - it would or it would at some point face

> "The awareness that this dilemma exists makes the creation of unregulated Internet money even less likely," Professor Graham said.

Capital flows, such as those seen on money markets, do ternet were to develop its own not need the Internet to occur - those function perfectly well with the telephone, he added.



Virgin goes full tilt to revamp West Coast line

Once considered the pride of the rail network, today's West Coast service is best known now for its erratic, slow journeys.

Randeep Ramesh examines how Virgin Trains hopes to revitalise an ailing railway.

A £600m deal which will cut rail journey times between London and Scotland was announced yesterday by Railtrack and the

The deal will see a new signalling system in place and major track renewals on the Virgin-run West Coast main line. The improvements will lop 90 minutes off the five-hour London-Glasgow train trip by

The upgrade will see the return of the tilting train to the rail network. Virgin will buy 55 trains to use on the 400-mile route which will run first at 125 mph in 2002 and then at 140 mph by 2005.

British Rail first dreamt up the idea nearly 30 years ago. Its Advanced Passenger Train (APT) could travel at more than 140mph - tilting to compensate for the sharp curves along the western route.

However, passengers complained of feeling queasy. Their sense of balance was upset because the smooth ride they experienced did not match the undulating scenery outside the train's windows.

The APT project was finally abandoned in 1985, but not before it completover 3 hours 50 minutes. Inevitably the technology was copied, and refined, abroad and tilting trains from Italy and Sweden are among those being considered by Richard

The tilting trains will be introduced on the route in summer 2002. Together with 75 trains on Virgin's CrossCountry network, the additional rolling stock will enable the company to increase the number of passengers it carries from 25 million today to 50 million in 2005.

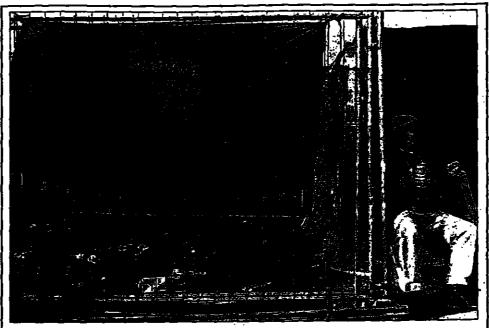
"That is our target and we would expect to carry even more by then," said Will Whitehorn, a spokesman for Mr Branson.

The higher speeds will make a dramatic difference to today's journey times. The trip from London to Manchester, currently a two-hour 20-minute journey, will only take one hour 45 minutes by 2005. In the meantime, however, the work will cause sovere disruptions.

Railtrack, which owns the nation's track, stations and signalling, will pay the £600m for the work - on top of a promised £1.5bn upgrade - and receive extra payments from Virgin as more passengers use

Campaigners welcomed the move, but said it was long overdue. "It is good news for the railways but comes seven years after British Rail first proposed the upgrade," said Jonathan Bray, of Save Our Railways.

The deal could still be scuppered by the rail regulator, John Swift QC. Experts say that the deal could be viewed as "too cosy and might see Virgin receiving preferential treatment from Railtrack over the 11



Out in the cold: Up to 60 Liverpool dockers have reportedly accepted a £28,000 deal to end a two-year dispute with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Photograph: Craig Easton

Striking dockers break ranks over pay deal

Up to 60 Liverpool dockers protected pensions entitlement, have broken ranks and opted to accept a £28,000 package, their employers said yesterday.

The move follows a secret ballot ordered by the Transport and General Workers' Union aimed to bring an end to the two-year dispute.

The deal, which includes a £28.000 settlement with a

40 jobs and support for a labour supply co-operative, was last week rejected by the vast majority of the 329 men involved in the dispute.

Shop stewards have mounted a high-profile campaign, claiming they will settle only for full reinstatement. But last night, Peter Jones,

the port operations director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, said up to 60 men had accepted the offer.

The Port of Liverpool workers were locked out by the company on 28 September 1995 after they refused to cross an unofficial picket line in support of 80 men from a separate company who lost their jobs.

Abuse inquiry told of twilight world

A stark insight into the twilight the inquiry which will look at world of child care in Gwynedd the running of social services emerged yesterday at the in- across North Wales during two emerged yesterday at the mquiry investigating allegations of widespread abuse at resiof widespread abuse at residence suggests that dential homes in North Wales. a child in care in Gwynedd

Children and care workers were banned from contact with the police and other outside agencies, the hearing was told. leged to have abused more than 60 people himself heardchild protection complaints.

In a damning indictment of Gwynedd social services, Mr Gerard Elias QC told the hearing that there was no effective child care or placement strategy, no care plans for individual children, and no adequate records system. Assessments of children were either non-existent or inadequate.

Heads of bomes and care workers were under-resourced, inexperienced and under-qualified or had non-existent quaiifications, he said. Children were made scapegoats for problems in the system, and no one listened to them.

"If, as so many children have said, there was no one who listened to them, is it any surprise that the system provided a classic breeding ground for the child abuser?" said Mr Elias opening a new phase of

decades.

would have experienced from the system a twilight world of bewildering inconsistency, characterised by a shortage Indeed a man who is now al- of resources, a lack of personal support, a failure to set aims and objectives or to provide consistent planning, haphazard placements and the absence of normal protective checks and balances that were designed to prevent, identify and investigate sexual, physical and emotional abuse, said Mr Elias.

He went on, "The majority of children were just as likely to have been failed by a system that consciously or unconsciously sacrificed the needs of the child to an administrative exercise governed by blinkered and under-informed

expediency." Mr Elias said there was no evidence of any remedial action being taken either after an independent report in 1982 or a Welsh Office report in 1989. both of which were highly critical of the system in Gwynedd.

The hearing continues.



Jail for man who tortured wife for 22 years

turing his wife over a 22-year period was jailed for 10 years yesterday. Leeds Crown Court heard how unemployed Christopher Cadey beat, burnt and abused his wife from the start of their marriage in 1974.

Patrick Palmer, for the prosecution, said Shirley Cadey was left with a star of David cut into her chest, a 10-inch scar on her arm and a cauliflower ear. Cadey, 44, of Halton Moor, Leeds, would regularly burn his wife's wrists and other parts of her body.

She was too afraid to move or the torture would last longer, Mr Palmer said. "He would concentrate on particular parts of Mrs Cadey's body. For a while he concentrated on her ears; he moved on to concentrate on her shoulder and then to pushing her over for a time.

A husband who admitted tor- Then he began to burn her in various parts of her body."

Cadey admitted six charges of inflicting actual bodily harm, one charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm and one count. of inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent. He denied three further charges of grievous bodily harm, which were left to lie on file. Mr Palmer said Mrs Cadev finally went to police after Cadey told her he had sexual fantasies about schoolgirls. The couple, who have six children, had few holidays together but Cadey often went off on his own. Mrs Cadev calle the police after he said he was ogise to my wife. I'm sorry." going to Blackpool, where a landlady had a 14-year-old daughter who was "worldly-wise

and flirted with him". Michael Murphy, QC, for Cadey, said in mitigation that police, social workers and

health visitors became involved in the family over the years. In 1991, after police arrested Cadey for banging his wife's head against the wall, the prosecution was discontinued, at the request of Mrs Cadey, who said at the time: "I am frightened of Chris, although I do love him as well." Mr Murphy asked the judge, Recorder David Robson QC, to give credit for Cadey's guilty pleas, which saved his wife from giving evidence and facing crossexamination. Cadey said from the dock: "Words are very cheap but I just

He was sentenced to a total of nine years for the attacks on his wife and another 12 months for four separate counts of indecent assault on a teenager. As he left the dock he said: "That's very fair."

Ban on sale of laser pens

Potentially dangerous laser pointers are being banned from sale to the general public after research showed they can cause injurics.

The pen-shaped pointers are designed to be used as aids to business presentations. But there have a number of complaints from people who say they suffered pain when beams were shone in their eyes by people abusing the devices.

Consumer affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said 14 out of 17 models tested by researchers at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh failed to meet safety regulations. Under the new rules, class 3 laser pointers which have a strong beam - will be banned from sale. Weaker and safer class 1 and 2 pointers will still be available.

Mr Atkinson, 58, of Barnt

DAILY POEM To WR

by WE Henley

Madom Life's a piece in bloom Death goes dogging everywhere: She's the tenant of the room, He's the ruffian on the stair.

You shall see her as a friend, You shall bilk him once and twice; But he Il trap you in the end, And he'll stick you for her price.

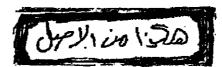
With his kneebones at vour chest And his knuckles in your throat You would reason — plead — protest! Clutching at her petticoat; But she's heard it all before.

Well she knows you've had your fun. Gingerly she gains the door, And your little job is done.

This week's poems come from the new, 800-page Penguin Book of Victorian Verse, selected and edited by Daniel Karlin (Allen Lane/ The Penguin Press, £25). WE Henley, famous as a jingoistic editor, was disabled as a result of tubercular arthritis; his first published verse was the Hospital Poems sequence of



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EU subsidies spawn threat to ancient grasslands

Britain's flax processing industry is taking action to prevent farmers ploughing up areas of scientific interest. Oliver Tickell looks at how the manufacturers are taking the lead in helping the environment.

escapes death

The action by the industry will help close the so-called "flax loophole", under which the European Commission has been paying farmers tens of thousands of pounds to plough up ancient grasslands and wild flower meadows, in order to

cultivation to date include at least four Sites of Special Scientific Interest, at Offham Down and Offham Marshes in Sussex, and Kernwick & Ottery Meadows in Cornwall.

Farmers have been induced to plough up these ecologically valuable areas by annual payments of nearly £600 per hectare, under the Common Agricultural Policy. These compare with payments of around £100 per hectare from the Government to maintain ancient grasslands.

Most other CAP arable subsidies are only paid on registered arable land, however the flax subsidy can be claimed on on any farmland, no matter how great its conservation impor- a danger that this might be seen tance. The generous terms of the flax subsidy have induced British farmers to plant some 20,000 hectares of flax this year.

Now the five UK firms who contract farmers to grow flax,

allect pound

not point

stepped in to stop the damage. Nigel Bazely of Rubin Appel, Britain's leading flax contractor, said: "We were extremely concerned to discover that some farmers might

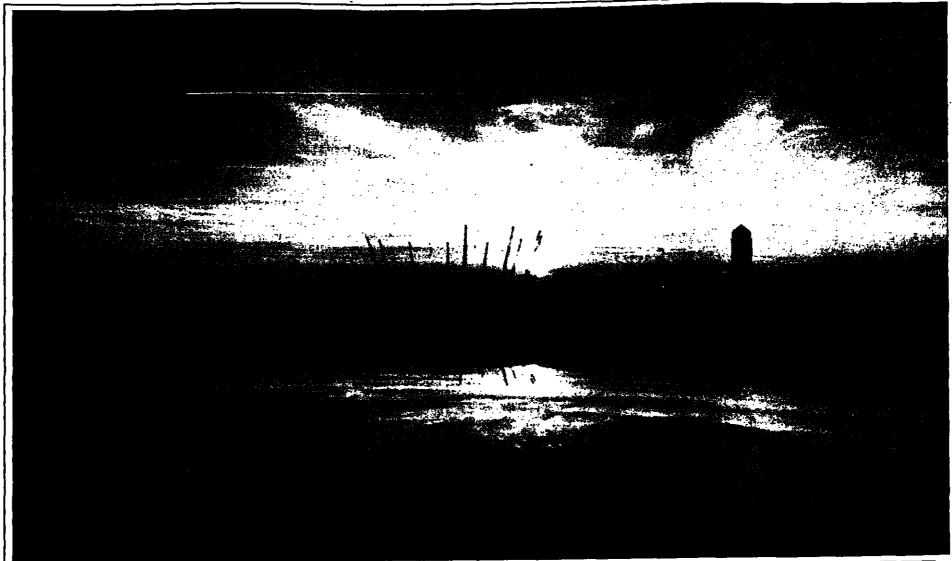
have cultivated land of high conservation value. It is entirely unacceptable when the market for fibre flax is itself being driven by public demand for the use of more sustainable and environment-friendly raw materials."

British flax was now finding its way into a host of products, from papers to interior panels in cars. Mr Bazely said: "We are seeking to develop new markets for this natural fibre and the last thing we want is to spoil it all with environmental scares."

Under the scheme an-Sites lost or damaged by flax nounced by Mr Bazely, UK flax contractors will no longer accept contracts for flax grown on "unsuitable" land - such as SSSIs, ancient and semi-natural woodlands, unimproved permanent grasslands, and County Wildlife Sites (unless approved by the local Wildlife Trust).

John Cousins, of the Wildlife Trust's, said: "We are extremely pleased that the private sector has taken voluntary action. Because farmers need to contract a buyer for their crop in order to claim the subsidy, we believe the system should prove watertight."

Friends of the Earth also welcomed the news, but said that it emphasised the need for reforms to the CAP. "There is to relieve pressure for a longterm, Europe-wide solution, said the FoE's biodiversity campaigner Matt Phillips. "No way does this let Franz Fischler European Commissioner for and process it into fibre, have Agriculture] off the hook."



Unwelcome at the pleasure dome: A sunset view of the North Greenwich Peninsula, where work on the Millennium project was Photographs: Brian Harris / Rui Xavier disrupted by protesters, right, who object to the construction on aesthetic grounds

Protesters rise up to halt Millennium Dome work

A group of protesters have broken into the site of the planned Millennium Dome and chained themselves 100ft up a crane in an attempt to bring the work to a halt.

The two women and seven men, who have given themselves the name "Time Bomb", are calling on the Government to scrap work on the project which is now under way at Greenwich, south London. The group describes the project as "an appalling open sore" on the face

The activists, who are believed to come from south London, broke into the building site early yesterday morning and scaled the crane which is being used to install the 12 masts needed to hold up the structure of the dome.

Supported by safety nets, they then settled perience, the quango in charge of the dome prothemselves under a banner bearing the words "Doomesday Dome". They claim to have enough provisions to last for a week.

A representative of Time Bomb, who called himself Mark, said: "Even if it is only for a few days they will be delighted because the tight schedule of the project means that substantial damage has already been done.

"The last struts were planned to be erected [yesterday] and we have managed to prevent that. The dome is a waste of money and natural resources. The people of Greenwich were promised regeneration, but this is not going to with food and clothing to give to the help them."

Jez Sagar, a spokesman for Millennium Ex-

ject, said no force would be used to remove the protesters but that company lawyers were being consulted. Crane workers and abseilers at the site had offered the protesters safety equipment.

"We are very concerned for the safety of these people," he said. "They have climbed up one of the 350ft cranes we have used to install masts which will hold up the dome structure.

As the day went on, a growing number of sympathisers gathered at the gates of the construction site. One man, who gave his name as Max, had cycled from the other side of London campaigners.

- Amanda Kelly





Channel 4, Sunday 2nd November at 7.57pm.



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*All cavel must be booked by 30th November 1997 and completed by 15th December 1997. All travel is subject to availability and restricted

£-

Venice

South Korca's two main opposition parties yesterday joined forces to field a joint presidential candidate. Though they did not decide on who that might be, it seems likely to be Kim Dae Jung, whom opinion polls show holding a commanding lead. A victory by Kim Dae Jung, 72 who is running for president for the fourth time, would mark a major change in politics in South Korea, where the conservative ruling camp has governed since the nation was born in 1948. An official of the National Congress for

New Politics party (NCNP) said Kim Dae Jung, who is president of the party, would become the joint opposition candidate.

Kim Jong Pil, leader of the smaller United Liberal Democrats, would become the prime minister if their joint candidacy won the elections, the official said.

Kim Dae Jung had visited Kim Jong Pil at the latter's home to conclude the deal. The latter was the right-hand man of president Park Chung-hee throughout Park's 18year rule until his assassination in 1979.

The united opposition comes as the governing New Korea Party, which has never lost a presidential election, teeters on the brink of an acrimonious break-up. President Kim Young-sam and the man his party chose to succeed him, the former supreme court judge Lee Hoi-chang, are openly feuding. Supporters of the two factions in the party have said New Korea is on the verge of splitting. President Kim is barred by the constitution from seeking another term.

A Gallup poll conducted on Sunday showed Kim Dae Jung with 34.3 per cent support compared with 16.1 percent for New Korea's Lee Hoi-chang, trailing in third place. Kim Jong Pil was last with just 3.3 per cent. Increasingly, speculation is focusing on Rhee In-je, a strong second in the Gallup poll with 26.8 per cent. Mr Lee's faction in the New Korea Party

is accusing President Kim of secretly supporting Mr Rhee, who bolted the party last month to run independently for the Mr Lee has built his compaign around

allegations that Kim Dae Jung amassed millions of dollars in political slush funds from the 1992 presidential campaign. Mr Lee has also refused to close the door on the possibility of the president's campaign war chest being probed.

sident Chiluba appealed for unity after yesterday's attempt to oust him

I'm still in charge, says Zambia leader nomic reforms forced on the

An attempted coup by disgruntled military officers in Zambia was crushed yesterday, after only a few hours. Mary Braid says the episode has cast fresh doubt on the region's

Twenty men were arrested after gunfire erupted around broadcast centre in Lusaka and near President Frederick Chiluba's state residence. Within four hours of the uprising the president was on radio to tell the country he was still in charge. The defence minister, Ben Mwila, said government troops had killed one dissident army officer and arrested 15 others.

"I want to warn those who rise by the sword that they will fall by the sword," said the

president, who won Zambia's first democratic elections in 1991, ending the 27-year rule of former president Kenneth

Mr Chiluba was re-elected in elections were boycotted by the opposition after he changed the law to prevent Mr Kaunda from standing against him.

Mr Chiluba, who did not attend the Commonwealth Summit in Edinburgh which ended on Monday, appealed yesterday to Zambians to unite, warning: "We can't go back to the dark ages." Although there were reports

of celebrations following the coup failure, the president's support has wanted significantly since 1991. Many Zambians were deeply disappointed by his manipulation of the rules to prevent Mr Kaunda opposing him. A few months ago Mr Kaunda claimed the government had tried to assassinate him after he

was shot at an opposition rally. Mr Chiluba's democratic cre-

country by the World Bank

have also dented support for the

government. Zambia is now

held up as a model of econom-

ic reform with extensive pri-

vatisation and sweeping changes

in state businesses, but the

changes have brought great

hardship in their wake. Prices

are rising and unemployment is

but it surprises me with its tim-

ing." said Hermann Hanekom

of the Pretoria-based Africa

Institute. "Chiluba has for some

time been playing the democ-

racy game according to his own

rules. I am not surprised that he

is back in power, but we can

expect him to pull in the reins

on political freedoms, starting

to the country last year in an ef-

fort to reverse the new law on

Many foreign donors cut aid

with the media."

"The coup is not a surprise,

vorsening.

dentials also suffered when he jailed journalists who criticised his introduction of a law which requires presidential candidates November last year, but the to have Zambian parents, effectively barring Mr Kaunda. The rebel soldiers claimed yesterday that their hand had been forced by a criminal and corrupt government.

While the coup, headed by a soldier identified on radio as Captain Solo, was almost over before it started, it still casts a shadow over southern Africa. "There will be a negative impact," said Kaire Mbuende, executive secretary of the 14nation Southern Africa Development Community, to which Zambia belongs. "It will cast doubt on the future political sta-

bility of our region." And although Mr Chiluba's autocratic tendencies have disillusioned many voters, eco-

Burmese junta sets up the barricades to block Suu Kyi

Burma's military authorities yesterday set up barricades and blocked opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from holding a political gathering outside the capital. The government said Ms Sun Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party were told not to hold the gathering, and said their insistence on trying to hold it despite the warning would only slow down the

The gathering at Mayangon Township, about seven miles from country's moves towards democracy. Rangoon, would have been the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate's second political meeting outside the city since she was released from house arrest more than two years ago.

Japan's women may get pill

Japan took a step towards approving the birth control pill after a key committee gave the oral contraceptive its blessing. The decision means that women may gain access to the pill next year 35 years after it was introduced in the West. Japan remains the only industrialised country to ban the pill for contraception.

Swazi protest against king

Armed paramilitary police fired tear gas at about 2,000 demonstrators awaiting Swaziland's King Mswati III on his return from the Commonwealth Heads of State Conference in

Scotland, South African radio said. The Prince of Wales and his son Prince Harry start touring the tiny southern African kingdom of Swaziland today. Swaziland has been plagued by actions from trade unions demanding constitutional changes to institute democracy. The country has been ruled by an absolute monarch since 1973.

Quake rocks Peru

A earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale shook northern Peru and southern Ecuador yesterday, causing roofs to collapse and some panic. The quake was centred nearly 450 miles north of the capital, Lima, in the northern province of Amazonas. In Montevideo, 45 miles south of the epicentre, houses collapsed. Radio reports from Ecuador also indicated panie in the southern cities of Macas, Macara and Machala near the Peruvian border.

Kashmir chief's aide killed

Unidentified assailants shot and killed a key political aide to the chief minister of northern Indian state of Jammu-Kashmir, police said. The motive for killing Habibullah Para was not clear. but police blamed guerrillas fighting for Kashmir's independence. Mr Para was shot in Gandarbal, a village 10 miles north east of Srinagar, the state capital.

Surfer escapes Great White

An Australian escaped with only a few scratches after a 16.5ft Great White Shark chomped through his fibreglass surf ski yesterday. "He missed my feet by about one foot," said Brian Sierakowski, 51, who was paddling on the two-seater craft. "He chewed it in half," he said. The attack occurred off Cottesloe Beach, three miles south of Perth. Mr Hopkins said he had never heard of a shark attacking a surf ski before.



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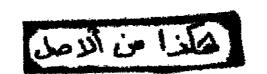
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11/JIANG IN AMERICA

Nuclear pact to set seal on Chinese leader's visit

When President Clinton meets Jiang Zemin in Washington today, a deal on nuclear co-operation will top the agenda.

nese junta sets up the cades to block Shift

The may get it

ं protest against king

CKS Peru

THE CHIEF'S Ride killer

CACADES Great With

nnium Bond

As Mary Dejevsky reports, the lucrative prospect of selling power stations to China is rapidly outweighing fears about national security and the balance of power. But can Congress be persuaded to look upon an old enemy as a new partner?

Senior US negotiators were still in Peking at the end of last have to approve any change in week, putting the finishing touches to an agreement which could pave the way for American companies to build nuclear power stations in China. Such thing to obtain a nuclear techan agreement would have nology agreement with the US multiple advantages.

companies, such as Westinghouse and ABB Combustion Engineering, that have been hamstrung by the 12-year-old technology to China. They have had to watch as French and other foreign companies competed successfully for the big Chinese contracts.

They say they have lost up to \$16m of sales. An agreement would help redress the \$40bnand-growing US trade deficit with China, and dispel criticism in Peking that the US still discriminates against it for political reasons and uses trade to influence its internal policy.

But before the US relaxes the ban, it wants assurances from China that it will abide by

appeared confident such assurances had been given. In his

third countries and it is developing a system of export controls to prevent the transfer or sale of technology for weapons of mass destruction."

In the preceding days, US officials had reported undertakings from China it would end 'new" sales of nuclear technology to Iran. China was also said to have told the Americans that it was halting shipments of cruise missiles to Iran.

Some Americans are sceptical of China's assurances and its motives. Until recently, the Chinese had refused to halt sales of nuclear technology to Iran, arguing that such exports were legitimate because Iran was a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation agreement.

In Congress, which would US trade arrangements with China, some right-wing Congressmen say China is being disingenuous and will say anyand that President Clinton is de-It would please major US liberately turning a blind eye to recent Chinese violations of international agreements on technology transfer.

something Congress will be re-

sides. If China sustains its rapid

economic growth, it is estimat-

ed to need \$60bn of new reac-

tors over the next 15 years, and

much of that business could go

to US firms. The US, however,

wants to know that its technol-

ogy will not be diverted for mil-

itary use or to third countries.

the nuclear non-proliferation

treaty, the Comprehensive Test

Ban Treaty and the Missile

Technology Control Regime.

It has also told the US that it

will join the Zangger Commit-

tee, a body through which coun-

technology and equipment co-

this effect today could allow the

US to 'certify' that China is

boast that his overall policy, of

using 'constructive engagement'

international rules of behaviour,

at least abroad, has been

A formal announcement to

ordinate export procedures.

supplying nuclear

China already has signed

Much is at stake for both

luctant to give.

A different view of some US US ban on exports of nuclear China-watchers is that China is genuinely in the process of curbing ties with Iran - not to please Washington but in its own self-interest.

With its fast-developing economy, they say, China will need not just US nuclear power technology, but a reliable supply of Middle East oil and a peaceful political environment in its western border regions and has concluded that Iran is more of a hindrance than a help.

Whatever the reasons for

China's apparent change of tries

heart over Iran, it seems to have opened the way for what could international agreements on be the one specific agreement nuclear technology and use it announced today. The assurопеа At the weekend, Mr Clinton not to be unilateral. Before qualified recipient of US nucommitting itself to buying US clear exports and lift the export nuclear power technology, speech on China policy at the Peking is said to want cast iron headquarters of the Voice of undertakings from Washington America radio station on Friday, that sales will not be subject to to coax China into accepting he said: "China has lived up to the vagaries of Washington polits pledge not to assist unsafe- ities, in the form of sanctions or guarded nuclear facilities in other political pressure. That is



Hat trick: President Jiang dons a colonial-style tricorn hat while touring historic Williamsburg

Emigrés plan a rowdy welcome

A readiness to bury differences in pursuit of the greater cause is not something protest groups or émigré organisations are known for. But more than a dozen organisations and lobby groups joined to protest against the visit of the Chinese President. Mary Dejevsky went to meet them.

sand demonstrators, many of them Chinese exiles, and a copy of the Goddess of Democracy - the home-made Statue of Liberty built by student protesters - that was smashed by Chinese tanks in Tiananmen Square eight years ago.

The demonstration, in White House, is the first big setpiece event in a week of protest that is unusual, even in America, for its tight organisation and sharp focus. It is a two-pronged protest - against President Jiang as representative of the regime in Tiananmen Square and which still violates human rights, and against the US Administration for rolling out the red carpet in his honour.

Human rights groups, coordinated by Amnesty International and a group called Human Rights in China, are disappointed that President Bill Clinton has obtained no promises to release or improve the conditions of two prominent political prisoners. Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan.

US officials note China tends to make concessions af-When Jiang Zemin arrives at the ter the event rather than before White House for the formal part so as not to appear to be subof this week's summit today, he mitting to foreign pressure. will be greeted by several thou- But recent high-level meetings, including the visit to Peking by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, bave brought no movement.

Yesterday, introducing the week of protest, William Schultz, the executive-director of Amnesty International in the US, accused Mr Clinton of Lafayette Park just north of the having "allowed China not just to stack the decks [for the visit] but to deal all the cards."

China had been able to "frame the debate" - to the extent that human rights might not even be formally mentioned at today's talks. "Trade trumps Photograph: Reuters responsible for the repression torture every time," he said.

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Yeltsin declares war on political extremists

As Russia approaches the 80th anniversary of the 1917 revolution. Boris Yeltsin has launched a drive to snuff out fascism and political extremism. Phil Reeves in Moscow asks if it is the threat to democracy, or the threat to his

own power, that really worries the

president.

President Yeltsin signed a decree yesterday setting up a commission under the Justice Minister, Sergei Stepashin, with the task of putting a stop to "manifestations of fascism and other forms of political extremism in

the Russian Federation".

The presidential press office said it would work out measures to prevent political exttemism and climinate the causes and conditions under which it develops". It would also clarify the constitution, which outlaws any public body aiming to forcibly change constitutional order or instigate social, racial, national and religious strife.

The commission faces a complex task, not least because of the blurred line that separates extreme-right nationalists and monarchists in Russia and outright fascist bulk of the power in the country resides in groups, all of which have proliferated the Kremlin.

since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Although an estimated 80 ultra-nationalist groups were last year believed to be operating in Russia, right-wing extremism has remained on the fringes of politics. There has been growing alarm about their activities, and also about the astonishingly high level of anti-Semitism in Russia. One small group, Russian National Unity, headed by Alexander Barkashov, an avowed Hitler admirer, has been allowed to patrol a park in Moscow in paramilitary fatigues.

The far-right's pinnacle came in 1993, when the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky's party came first with 22.9 per cent of the vote. By last year, his following had shrivelled considerably, delivering a mere 5.7 per cent of the poll in the first round of the presidential elections.

There were suggestions yesterday that one of the commission's targets could be the retired army general Lev Rokhlin, who has called for Mr Yeltsin to be thrown out of office by the force of public opposition. He has been campaigning within the armed forces, and has set up a movement which he claims has branches across most of Russia.

Mr Yeltsin's move will cause wry smiles among his opponents, especially in parliament. They know all to well that the great

Dutch pave the way for gay couples to adopt children

The Netherlands is set to become the first country to permit gay couples to adopt children, after a parliamentary committee yesterday issued a report recommended full marriage rights for homosexuals, including the right to adopt. "Marriage has always been a flexible institution," said the committee, which was set up in June by the Justice Minister, Elisabeth Schmitz. "Same-sex couples can only be guaranteed equal treatment if they are allowed. to enter civil marriage."

If the proposals become law - which could happen next year - they would confirm the penchant for social trail-blazing of a country long at the centre of international controversy thanks to its relaxed attitude to euthanasia and soft drugs like marijuana. Sweden and Norway already recognise gay partnerships for the purposes of pensions, taxation, social benefits and inheritance laws. But no national legislature has gone as far as permitting such couples to adopt children. In some American states and in Britain, single gay people are allowed to adopt children, but not couples, a state of affairs that gay rights activists are seeking to

Previously, the Netherlands' left-liberal coalition government had indicated that it would be happier if the gay marriage proposals were quietly shelved. But last night the recommendations drew broad political support. "We want this to be law before the next election [due in May 1998]," a spokesman for the liberal par-

French to march for Algeria

Leading French artists and intellectuals will march through Paris on 10 November to call for peace in Algeria. The former Socialist culture minister Jack Lang, now head of the French National Assembly foreign affairs committee, said the demonstration by prominent artists, writers and researchers would not take sides in the conflict between the Algiers government and Muslim fundamentalist rebels. The march to the Science City museum in the north of the capital will be followed by a vigil.

Socialists jailed for tax fraud

Spain's Supreme Court has convicted senior officials from the Socialist party in a high-profile case involving illegal political financing that helped bring down the previous government, court sources said. Senator Josep Maria Sala and former congressman Carlos Navarro were sentenced to three years and nine years in prison respectively for illegal association and falsifying documents. Navarro was given an additional two years in jail for tax fraud. Four other former Socialist officials, including accounts director Aida Alvarez and two businessmen, were convicted as well in the so-called Filesa case, which was named for the front company which was alleged to have been set up to funnel at least 1bn pesetas (£3.91m) to party coffers in 1989.

Weapons pour into Bosnia

Hundreds of howitzers and tons of ammunition, donated by the United States to the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation's army, arrived in Croatia yesterday. The equipment is part of a \$400m (£240m) US-backed train-and-equip programme, designed to help the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation establish a military balance with the Bosnian Serbs, the Croatian news agency Hina reported.

Hitler's mountain eyrie to become history centre



Hitler meeting Nazi families at the Berghof, where he planned the invasion of Photograph: Hulton Getty the Soviet Union and entertained Chamberlain

The remains of Adolf Hitler's alpine retreat centre in order to prevent the site from turning into a neo-Nazi haunt, state

officials said yesterday.

The former British prime minister
Neville Chamberlain and the Italian fascist leader Benito Mussolini were among Hitler's guests at his house, the Berghof, on the slopes of the Obersalzburg above Berchtesgaden on the Austrian border.

It was also where Hitler planned the German invasion of the Soviet Union and where he and his armaments minister, Albert Speer, conducted the Nazis' Second World War campaign.

The Berghof and the chalets of other senior Nazis such as Hermann Goering, the head of Luftwaffe, and Martin Bormann. one of Hitler's closest advisers, were damaged by an Allied air raid in April 1945. Seven years later the ruins were blown up on the orders of the Bavarian state government. The grounds were later used by US military forces for recreational purposes

"The new documentation centre will be housed in part of the bunker system and in a new building which is going to be con-

structed on the grounds of the complex." will be converted into a historical document a spokeswoman for the Bavarian finance ministry said.

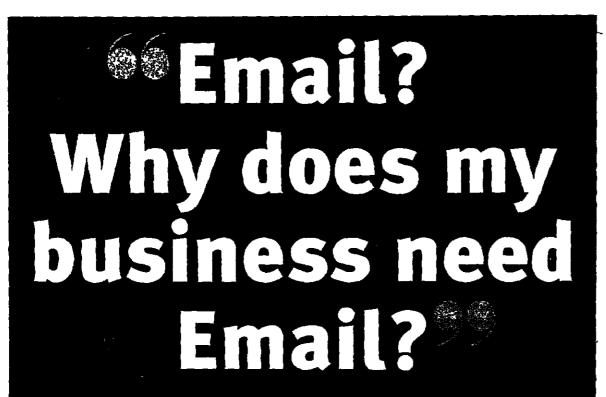
"The documentation centre aims to put the Berghof in its historical context through exhibitions," she said, adding that the centre would open early next

The idea of setting up such a centre came from historians and local politicians after lobby groups complained that the retreat had become a place of pilgrimage for aco-Nazis and other right-wing extremists. They also charged that uncritical Hitler photograph albums as well as banned Nazi symbols and propaganda were being routinely sold there.

The Führer's long sojourns at the mountain retreat with members of the Nazi élite and their families were documented in detail in hundreds of photographs and in colour film.

Eagles' Nest, an alpine lookout 1.834 metres (6.000ft) above sea level, is the only building remaining from the original Berghof retreat and is today a mountaintop café. This was built as a 50th birthday present for Hitler.

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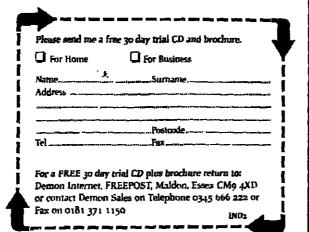
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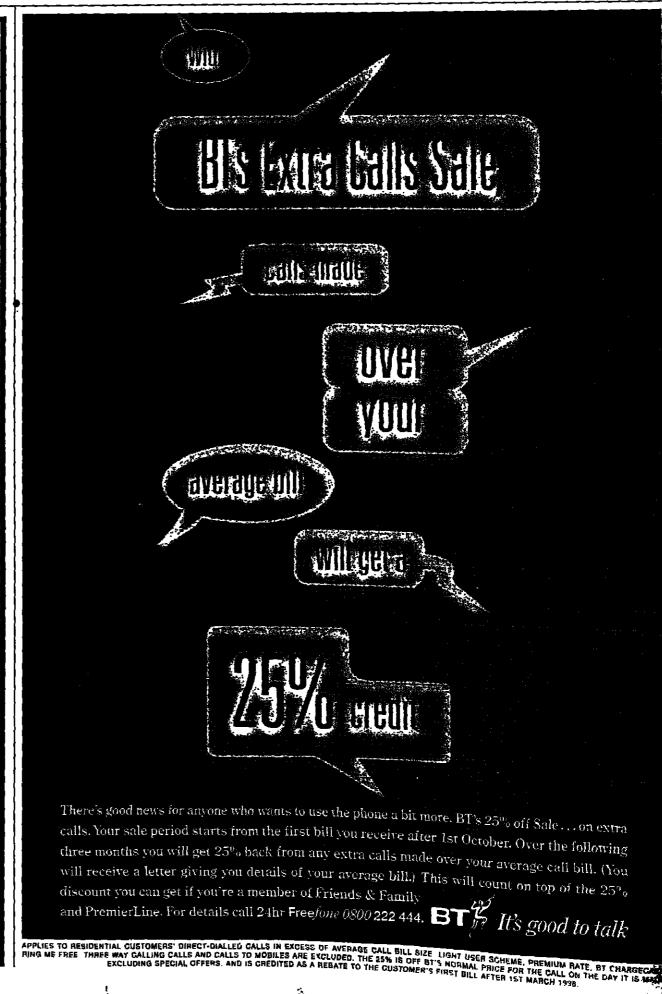


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Defiant Saddam set for arms showdown

threatening to end co-operation with **United Nations** inspectors' in charge of the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction. Patrick Cockburn discovers why President Saddam Hussein is once again throwing down a gauntiet to the Security Council.

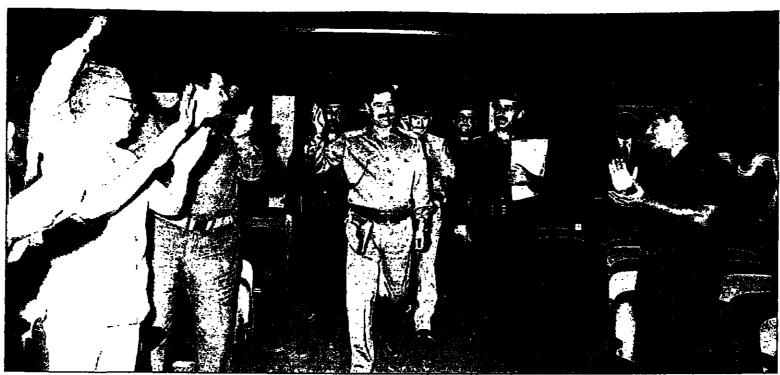
The Iraqi leader is

President Saddam has a track record of miscalculating international response to his actions, such as the invasion of Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990. But he is master when it comes to assessing the balance of political forces at home.

In the past few days, the Iraqi leader has moved closer Security Council.

Yesterday Saddam was chairing a meeting of his ruling Revolution Command Council to discuss a recommendation by the Iraqi National Assembly that he cease co-operation with UN weapons' inspectors.

This would make it impossible for the international team to visit military facilities in search of concealed nuclear, chemical or biological arms, and evidence of the means to develop missiles.



to a confrontation with the UN On the warpath: President Saddam Hussein and the Revolutionary Council. Saddam could block the UN from monitoring Iraqi missiles

guard battle to stop them discovering any material or documents from Saddam's 1980s campaign to develop a nuclear bomb, chemical and biological weapons --- a cam-

paign that was nearly a success. The opinions of the Iraqi National Assembly do not normally count for much in Iraai decision-making. But Saddam might prevent UN inspectors

1991. Iraq has fought a rear- from Russia and France - the two powers Iraq hopes will get sanctions lifted.

France yesterday said it had warned Iraq against suspending ties with the UN arms inspectors. It said Iraq's co-operation was the only way it could secure the end of sanctions imposed in 1990.

Russia was equally firm. Valery Nesternshkin, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said

eration with the UN inspectors would be "fraught with negative consequences, above all for Iraq itself".

Last week, Russia and France abstained when the US and Britain threatened in the Security Council to stop Iraqi officials' travelling abroad unless inspectors were free to do their job.

In private, Russian officials

Since the inspectors arrived in working, despite warnings any approach other than co-op- from under its feet. If the empty warheads that Baghdad Kremlin does move into a conhad previously denied. Meanwhile, Saddam's grip frontation with the US in the

on domestic politics is far Middle East, it will be more likely to do so over business surer. Without his help, Massoud Barzani, leader of the Richard Butler, head of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), has withstood an the UN Special Commission (Unscom) on dismantling offensive backed by Iran. Earlier this month, the Paweapons of mass destruction,

said the Iraqi attitude was triotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, Only last Thursday his launched an attack against the say Iraq is cutting the ground inspectors had found three KDP. It appears to have failed.

Israelis refuse to accept truth behind ambush

An official Israeli report into the deaths of eleven soldiers who set out to ambush guerrillas in southern Lebanon last month - only to be ambushed themselves has concluded they were victims of bad luck rather than betrayal. But Robert Fisk finds that the the report bears little relation to the facts.

In Jerusalem, the report may be comforting. But in Lebanon, it reads like farce. For if the Israeli commission of inquiry is to be know who ambushed them, have convinced themselves an entire minefield was set up quite by chance, at the side of a lemon grove 22 miles inside southern Lebanon - and that their men came under fire from this is what Major General Gabi Ofir and Brigadier General Ran Galbaka have concluded, Israeli troops are doomed to further disasters.

Eleven out of the 16 soldiers on the raid towards the village of Aansariyeh were blown up by mines that had been laid on the ground and hung from trees on the route which the Israelis were taking, the survivors coming under fire from Hizbollah guerrillas lying in wait. Investigations at the scene by The Independent last month proved the Hizbollah knew the raiders were coming and warned local Lebanese army troops they were preparing an ambush. The Israelis were betrayed by a double-agent, one of an army of informers who have been suborned or blackmailed by Lebanese guerrillas to change sides over the past year.

The informer - who has a

Israelis - was identified by The Independent. But nowhere in the Israeli report is he even referred to, Indeed, the Ofir-Galbaka inquiry suggests he never existed – even though all Israeli raids are co-ordinated with local collaborators. That guerrillas would have laid the mines by chance in so remote a spot defies imagination. But so the report would have us believe.

The ambush was pre-named Operation Abhas - after the Hizbollah secretary-general assassinated along with his wife and son by the Israelis in February 1994 - but the Israeli commission claims it has not clearly identified which group of guerrillas killed its men. In fact, the Hizbollah planted the mines believed, the Israelis still do not and - according to security sources in Lebanon - actually drew the map which the Israelis

Nor does the Israeli report make clear their mission in Lebanon; according to The Independent's investigation, it was a house which does not exist. If to capture a Hizbollah official whom they believed - wrongly - was staying in the village of Aansariyeh on 4 September. The house from which fire was supposedly directed at the Isracli troops does not exist; in fact, the Hizbollah gunfire came from the north - not from the south as the report suggests.

Perhaps it was too hard for the Israelis to admit the truth after the biggest catastrophe to befall their occupation forces in Lebanon in 10 years. One wonders what Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin Shahak, Chief of the Israeli General Staff, made of his officers' report. For the general is an expert on raids into Lebanon. In 1973, he led Israeli soldiers and Mossad agents into west Beirut to kill Palestinians who had massacred the Israeli team at the 1972 Munich Olympics. He, of all people, should know that in Lebanon, no ambush takes place ranrelative imprisoned by the domly or by chance.

Arafat cracks down on media after riots hit Gaza

remaining independent Palestinian journalists, who had just leader, had been detained. published a report on torture in released yesterday after 48 hours under arrest.

None of the Palestinian me-

In the article which led to his his country's prisons, was arrest Mr Amayreh quoted members of Hamas, the Islamic militant group, as saying saying they had been tortured. dia mentioned that Mr lyad Imreish, one prisoner in- ian police at the weekend Amayrch, 41, who lives in He- terviewed, said: "They took off stopped journalists reporting a

poured cold water on me, and started to beat me with a burned down. broomstick. When it broke they brought another one."

In another example of censorship by Mr Arafat, Palestin-

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian the floor of the room. They in Gaza, in which the house of a shooting. the Palestinian governor was

> Abdullah Abu Samhandana, the governor, leader of a powerful local clan and governor, was forced to flee after his house was attacked by 2,000 mourners attending the funeral

Khalid Amayreh, one of the few bron and is a long-time critic of my clothes and laid me out on riot in Rafah, a town of 120,000 of a rival clan member killed in Since his return to Gaza in 1994.

with Iran.

ambivalent.

In suppressing the riot Palestinian police used live ammunition and one rioter was killed. The police confiscated the film of local journalists. The Samhandana clan, supported by Mr Arafat, has hitherto treated Rafah as its political fiefdom.

Mr Arafat has tried to restore the power of the traditional clan leaders to buttress his authority. Their influence had been reduced during the Palestinian Intifada and they are often unpopular, as they allocate jobs

only to members of their clan. --- Patrick Cockburn

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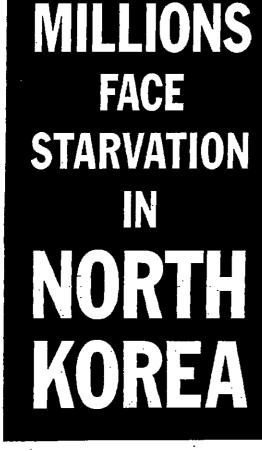
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This winter may prove to have devastating consequences for the people of North Korea. With the public's support, the Red Cross has ensured that basic medical and food aid has been reaching those who need it most. But supplies are running dangerously low at a time when help is needed more than ever before.

For the third consecutive year, a combination of devastating floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of North Korea children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. But, without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter.

Help is needed urgently to avoid this catastrophe. In addition to food and medical equipment, blankets and winter jackets are now desperately needed. You can do something to prevent huge numbers of children suffering through the winter months. £26 could help feed a family of four for two months.

Please call now with your credit card donation. 0171 201 5040

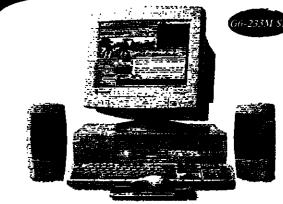


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This year's £20,000 Turner Prize will be won by a woman for only the second time in its history but she won't be either a painter or a sculptor.

jojo Moyes looks around this year's installations, as they go on show, and predicts yet another controversy.

There are few certainties in life, but outrage at the Turner Prize exhibits is one. And as the work of the four short-listed finalists was unveiled vesterday at London's Tate Gallery it appeared this year would be no exception.

True to controversial form, there was not a painting or sculpture among the 20 works on show, simply installations which ranged from dusted skeletons to a video of an abusive mother-daughter relation-

The exhibits, by Britain's foremost contemporary artists, were described as "very accessible" and "exciting" by the gallery's Curator of Interpretation. Simon

But it is fair to say exhibits such as Cornelia Parker's Negatives of Sound, which includes earplugs "made of fluff gathered in the Whispering Gallery, St Paul's Cathedral", are unlikely to provoke as enthusiastic a response among traditionalists. The artist, previously famous for her col-

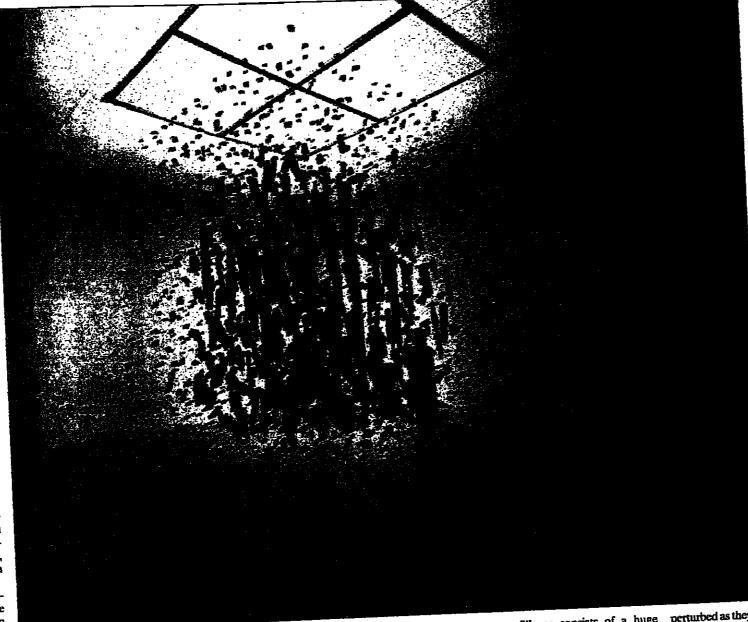
laboration with the actress Tilda Swinton on a work that involved the actress sleeping for a week in the Serpentine Gallery, also featured Eduked Cocaine 1996 - a handful of the drug, incinerated. Her spectacular main exhibit. Mass, con-

sists of shards of blackened wood, the charred remains of a Baptist church in Texas, suspended in an "explosion" from the ceiling on threads. But then this should be no surprise from

an artist who has previously created art by blowing up a garden shed, steamrollering everyday items and dropping things over the cliffs of Dover.

Another artist likely to upset the purists is Christine Borland, who shows three works investigating the brutal loss of human identity in medical research.

One piece, Phantom Tivins, is based on



leather dolls containing real foetal skeletons used in the 18th century to demonstrate childbirth. Another installation features two skele-

tons, one oversized, one undersized, both of which have been laid on glass shelves, "dusted" and then the bones removed, leaving "just a shadow that you could blow

Unlike another artist who recently made headlines, Ms Borland bought her

unidentified "Asian woman" for £900. With the help of forensic scientists, Borland established an identity for her. The exhibition also features two unsettling video installations by Gillian Wearing, widely tipped to be this year's winner.

Wearing is fascinated by the ambiguities in human relationships: her Sacha and Mum features a mother and daughter's embrace which slowly becomes abusive. Her

body parts from India, purchasing one 60 Minutes Silence consists of a huge videoscreen showing ranks of uniformed police officers remaining silent for an hour. Angela Bulloch's Superstructure with Satellites will at least impress those who believe in art as entertainment.

It is a large-scale piece of furniture painted in primal colours, surrounded by a series of strange noises set off by visitors who trigger pressure pads on the floor.

Yesterday two builders appeared un-

perturbed as they made use of the red cushioned seat, unaware that they were causing the strange booming sound around

Nobody is surprised when the Turner provokes controversy. Mr Wilson, perhaps mindful of epithets

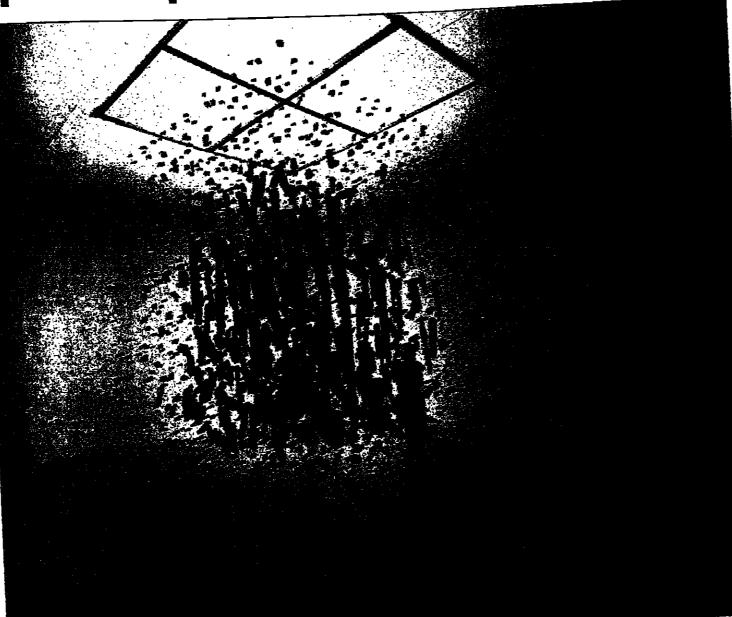
which have already included "the usual freak show" and "absolute rubbish", was yesterday robust in its defence.

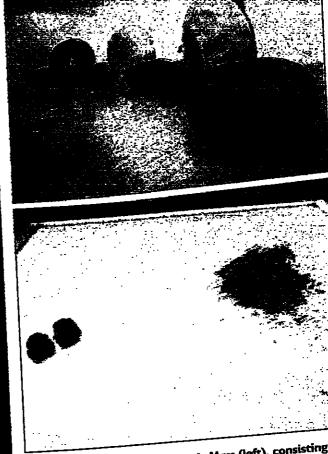
"Contemporary artists have been ex-

ploring all kinds of materials for years and art does not have to be a painting or marble. It can be anything," he said.

The exhibition, he said, could have broad public appeal, "provided they are prepared to give it the same attention they would give to a good television programme or football match." The eventual winner of the £20,000 prize, which is open to contemporary British artists aged under 50, will be announced on 2 December.

miltor





Burnt offering: Cornelia Parker's Mass (left), consisting of the charred remains of a church, her Negatives of Sound, (above), which include earplugs 'of fluff gathered in the Whispering Gallery, St Paul's Cathedral', and Angela Bulloch's Superstructure with Satellites (top).

Photographs: Brian Harris

vroom digital Another striking double for Rothmans Williams Renault • 1997 FIA Formula One World Constructors' Champion and Jacques Villeneuve, World Drivers' Champion. In the winning team: Frank Williams, his brid. Another striking double for Rothmans Winiams Renault 1991 Fix Formula one from Society Process. It can help drive yours. Choose Dignal Find us at www.digital.com or call 0800 393 200. And get ready to win in a networked world. engineers, his mechanics, and Dignal. Our technology helped drive Williams' success. It can help drive yours. Choose Dignal Find us at www.digital.com or call 0800 393 200. And get ready to win in a networked world.



Defiant: Neil and Christine Hamilton at Westminster yesterday Photograph: Reuters

Hamilton has Fayed taped

A row broke out last night over he called a press conference to two men for Harrods. the handling of the Neil play two tapes, littered with Hamilton case after a com- profanities and which he said Fayed appears to tell Mr Rowtake more evidence from the

former minister. The standards and privileges committee decided yesterday it had beard enough from Mr Hamilton, who had been found to have taken cash from the Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed for lobbying, but Quentin Davies, a Tory member of the committee, said last night that the decision was "a complete farce."

"On that basis I think any verdict reached by it will be unsound. It will be a miscarriage of justice whether or not it propounces Mr Hamilton innocent or guilty," he said.

In any case, the former MP is in no mood to go quietly. In one of the most bizarre

twists in the long-running saga

Mr Fayed and his arch-rival, Tiny Rowland.

Mr Hamilton claimed that the tapes, which came via Mr Rowland's solicitor, proved Mr Fayed had wanted to bring him down because he was part of the government which refused him a British passport.

The tapes were supposed to have been recorded by Mr Faved in October 1994, just after The Guardian first published allegations that Mr Hamilton had taken cash for questions. They appear to show that the two men were discussing how they could pool information in order to wreak revenge on Michael Howard, who appointed government inspectors to look into the

takeover battle between the

Amid manic laughter, Mr

land: "The people who hurl you and people who hurt me ... we gonna exchange information and anything because you been taken advantage of by those parasites and crooks ... you know, because you have a lot of s*** from the Establishment and all the f****** people."

The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee is considering its response to a report from Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, which found "compelling evidence" that Mr Hamilton took cash payments from Mr Fayed for lobbying services.

It will meet next Tuesday to consider its response to Sir Gordon's report.

— Fran Abrams

Shadow ministers poised to quit over Euro-sceptic policy

One Tory MP is poised to resign the party whip and another may resign from the front bench in protest at William Hague's Euro-sceptic

policy on the single currency. Colin Brown, Chief Political

Correspondent, says some shadow cabinet ministers may also be forced out.

Friends of two shadow cabinet ministers are urging them not to resign over the hardening of policy on the single European currency, which could lead one Tory MP to quit and another to stand down from the front

David Curry, shadow agriculture spokesman, and Sir George Young, shadow defence spokesman - the leading pro-Europeans in the shadow cabinet - objected to the hardening of policy before the Tory party

conference. A compromise to reject entry "for the foreseeable future" was lashed together for a show of unity, but it was ditched last week in favour of a more Euro-sceptic stance, ruling out entry for at least 10

Some of their colleagues are urging them to reopen the debate at today's meeting of the shadow cabinet. But one source said they had "no chance". "We are very comfortable with the policy now. It has got the Govemment on the run."

lan Taylor, a Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, is also unhappy with the hardening of policy and has told friends he may resign from the front bench, unless it is changed.

The commitment to oppose entry to the single currency at the next general election makes it more difficult for Mr Curry to stay in the shadow cabinet. He has told colleagues he would resign to fight for a "yes" vote in a referendum on the single

But his friends are urging him to stay, after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said Labour would not hold a referendum until after the next

"I think David, and Sir George are going to stay on board," said one shadow cabinet colleague. "They seem to have accepted the change."

But a veteran Tory "wet", Peter Temple-Morris is poised to resign the whip and will tell his constituency on Monday about his decision in protest at the growing Euro-scepticism of William Hague's team.

A senior government source yesterday fuelled speculation that the Tory MP for Leominster could be about to defect to Labour, while Liberal Democrats said they expected him to cross the floor to their benches, following in the steps of two former Tory MPs, Emma Nicholson and Hugh Dykes.

However, right-wing Conservative MPs yesterday shrugged off the threat of his departure. "He's bardly a Tory MP, he's so far out on the left wing. And would anyone notice?" said one frontbencher.

Warnings about Gulf War vaccines ignored by MoD

The armed forces minister, John Reid. yesterday released government papers which revealed a picture of appalling bungling by the Ministry of Defence over Gulf War illnesses with warnings from health officials being ignored. Ian Burrell finds that three senior MoD officials have since been disciplined.

The Ministry of Defence ignored danger warnings from the Department of Health and allowed British troops in the Gulf War to be injected with vaccines which were unlicensed

The use of the anthrax vaccine in combination with a substance called pertussis, which was designed to enhance its effect, had been shown to be censed for use on adults. dangerous in experiments on

In December 1990, a month before the outbreak of war, a senior Department of Health official faxed a warning to the

MoD about the "anxieties my experts have about the simultaneous administration of anthrax and pertussis vaccine".

He attached a letter of concern from the Hertfordshirebased National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, which had tested the vaccines on animals. "When [the vaccines were combined there was evidence of severe loss of condition and weight loss in animals," the letter warned.

Nevertheless, the vaccines were used in combination on British troops.

Yesterday, John Reid, the armed forces minister, said that attempts to discover what had been done about the Department of Health warnings had not been conclusive. However, it was revealed in the report that the health department fax was not logged by the MoD until 10 days after it arrived.

It was admitted that pertussis, which is used to treat whooping cough, was not li-

Dr Reid released a 27-page report giving details of all the medical counter-measures used to protect British troops during the Gulf War.

The report stated that, two

ment that Iraq had developed Plague as a biological warfare

As a consequence, British troops were given doses of the American-produced Cutter plague vaccine, which was unlicensed in Britain. A botulism vaccine and Naps (nerve agent pre-treatment sets) tablets, both widely administered, were also unlicensed. Troops were also exposed to organophosphate (OP) pesticide sprays, and Dr Reid yesterday issued a second report detailing how Parlia-

ment had been repeatedly misled over the extent of their use. Yesterday's report said: "MoD Service and Civil Service staff knew that OP pesticides had been used more extensively ... than had previously been reported and that this new information would embarrass the department, However, appro-

Two high-ranking military staff and one civil servant have been "reprimanded" over the failure to pass the information to ministers. Court-martial of the military personnel was not

priate action was not taken."

war. Allied intelligence made a of the reports was part of a new spirit of openness between the MoD and the Gulf War veterans. "I am committed to doing all that I can to get rid of the distrust which has built up over the years between the Ministry of Defence and those who

> Gulf," he said. "This can only be done by a determined effort to pursue a policy of openness, whatever the difficulties and however many uncomfortable questions it may raise."

> served their country in the

Dr Reid stressed that his department had no immediate plans to compensate sick veterans on the grounds that no cause had been found and so blame could not be apportioned. He said that the war pensions scheme provided sufficient financial support.

Richard Barr, the Norfolk solicitor representing hundreds of Gulf veterans who are seeking compensation, said: "The fact that he is saying that they are not even contemplating compensating the veterans perhaps shows that the Ministry of Defence has a fairly closed mind to the idea that it might

MP has ministers in sights

Ministers are bracing themselves for an hour of embarrassment in the Commons tomorrow, when the Liverpool MP. Robert Wareing, is due to be suspended from Parliament for a week for not declaring a company interest.

The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges also agreed in July that Mr Wareing. Labour MP for West Derby, "should make an apology to the House by means of a personal statement."

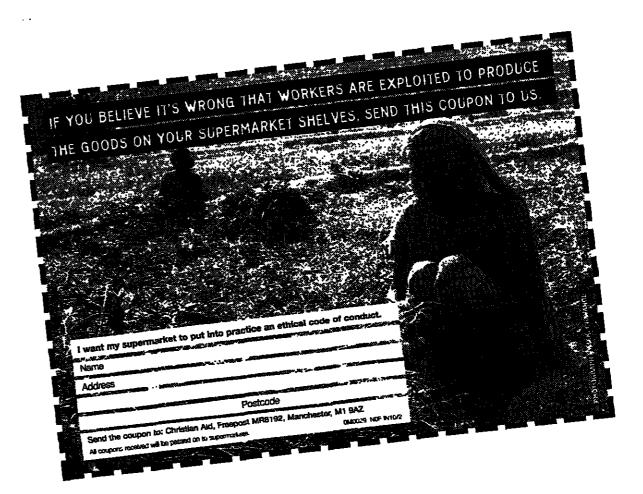
But there were fears that the MP would seize the opportunity to give vent to his anger over the affair.

That anger was evident in Mr Wareing's evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who investigated the initial complaint lodged by Nick Brown, the Government

Chief Whip. The allegations centred on claims that Mr Wareing had business links with the

Bosnian Serb regime. - Anthony Bevins

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REVIEW

The Secret Fail of Constance Wilde Abbey Theatre, Dublin

More an adaptation than a play, Tom Kilroy's fresh spin their lovemaking, and apon Oscar Wilde's life pretends to redress an imbalance, by focusing on the man's long-suffering wife. Unfortunately, it falls into many traps: the unavoidable clichés of the epigrammatic stage-Oscar, and the hazards of inventing around unknown events a century ago, here lamely overlaid with psycotherapeutic paradigms from our own age.

At its core, this is a threehander between Jane Brennan's stiffly enunciated, highly rational, stalwart Constance; the gravelly, Shakespearian moans of Robert O'Mahoney's tormented Oscar, and - infinitely more watchable - the sullen, peremptory pup of Andrew Scott's Lord Alfred Douglas. Around them, in their imaginary afterlife, loom the enormous embellishments of Patrick Mason's production. The chorus of giving, sainted woman. Obspectres in pin-stripe suits are most effective, their faces masked like swordfencers, manipulating puppets which provide her experience of abuse inmetaphors of parental determinism. The child pup- ous fall in 1895, which pets of the Wildes' two boys are poignant enough, but the giant puppets signifying notions, Kilroy seems to monstrous Freudian fatherly - particularly that of which is dramatically inert, Constance's father, with its and fails to realise Congrotesque enactment of oral sexual abuse.

elegant set (under Nick Chelton's chilly smoke-blue

landscapes), these devices rarely fuse with the cold, directionless drama. The larter displays some early flashes - the snatch of dialogue from Oscar about the infuriating, leaking goodness of Constance, her regret at the animalistic nature of peals towards his sense of responsibility. But these strands are ploughed under by the tumult of incoherent style: the invocation of the classical androgyne (one of a number of scholarly outtakes from the drama); the apotheosis of the jailbird Wilde; or his mystic con-

version to Catholicism, with

Scott as a kind of mouth-

kissing Pierre-et-Gilles

priest-Christ.

As Kilroy admits, through Bosie: "There are so many Oscars, that's what makes him so seductive" - so again, Oscar remains indomitably centre-stage. Part of the problem is that, while it is easy to improvise around him, it is far less so with the overshadowed, unknown Constance. Here, she is little more than a peculiar cipher - despite her sharp, educated tongue, an all-forscurely wrestling with her own "evil", she interprets her attraction to Oscar as : wounded pattern-behavious; explicably fused with a serihastened her early death. Glancing off such confused flinch at indicting Oscar; in stance beyond a distant psychiatric equation.

Despite the visual allure To 15 November (booking: 00 of Joe Vanek's typically bold, 353 1 878 7222)

Mic Moroney

Solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short? Well, they probably wouldn't go that far

(the Other Place), a few (a very few) words... How are Katie Mitchell and Juliet Stevenson proposing to turn half a dozen of the late Samuel Beckett's concisest 'dramaticules' into an evening's entertainment?

"It's been ill, which wasn't a help," laughs director Katie Mitchell, starting up a metronome that is suffering from trailing tick syndrome. To emback on this current project. you would certainly need an alert metronome and a healthy stopwatch, an acute sense of proportion and no sense of proportion whatsoever - plus a good working relationship with the author's zealously vigilant estate and maybe even a handy stash of valium.

With Juliet Stevenson and Nigel Cooke as the (virtually) solo leads, Mitchell is mounting two paired productions (one focusing on each gender) jointly comprising an evening of six Beckett shorts, those "dra-

BY PAUL **TAYLOR**

described them - that are at once miracles and nightmares of musicianly precision, focused intensity and psychological penetration.

I met up with director and actress at the Other Place in Stratford (where the project opens tonight) on a golden, piercingly beautiful October day. Neither of them, it must be said, looked as if they'd seen much sun lately, resembling more the prisoners who blunder into the light at the end of Fidelio than the thronging trippers I had had to wade through in the town. That, clearly, is thor does to you. On just such a day, one of his friends, while walking out with Beckett, remarked that it made you feel glad to be alive. "I wouldn't go that far" was the characteristically dry response.

Certainly, you feel it would take more than a spot of heavenly weather to bring out the gypsy in any of the characters here. They range from the suspended, jabbering mouth in Not I to the faintly lit face of the old man in That Time who finds himself bombarded by the recorded voices of three past selves. They extend from the compulsively pacing May of Footfalls to the beached fatherhaunted protagonist in Embers, a piece whose radio play origins are to be ingeniously respected in Mitchell's staging.

Minimalist to a degree that pushes (with a paradoxically potent theatricality) towards a kind of anti-theatre, these are plays that hover like ghosts "on the very edge of what [is] possible in the theatre", as Beckett put it to his latest biographer, James Knowlson. On one of the manuscripts of That Time, he wrote, tellingly, "To the objection visual component too small, out of all proportion with aural, answer: make it smaller on the principle that less is more."

Of course, this minimalism could sometimes topple into unintentional farce. The Broadway producers of the erotic revue Oh! Calcutta! to which Beckett contributed a 35second sketch, Breath, decided to transform what was intended as an ironic party-pooper into more of a standard turnon by taking Beckett's stage di-rection - "Faint light on stage limered with miscellaneous rubbish. Hold light about five seconds" - and inserting the phrase "including naked people" after the word "rubbish". Outrageous, yes, but a bit of you feels that Breath was ask-

ing for it. For the most part, though. Beckett's "dramaticules" - certainly all those in this project - "bite off more than they eschew", to hijack Christopher Ricks's witty defence of the same author's increasingly dwindling - unsubstantial yet

never insubstantial - prose it, "looping round and finding works. There is, after all, a yourself back at the beginning world of difference between again and not being able to get off the roundabout" - or even parsimony (an objection I have suddenly cueing yourself into a to some of Pinter's short, and indeed long. plays) and parallel play?

An entire evening made up

of such pieces poses problems,

though, of rehearsal, of order-

ing, and of setting. While each

of the plays has its own strong

and unmistakable personal

identity, they are, as a group,

full of mutual cross-references.

Mental ties and their corre-

sponding verbal ties keep resur-

facing. For example, the solitary

burden of consciousness is ex-

pressed in the same way by the

old man in That Time and the

woman in Rockaby, who is

rhythmically rocked to seeming

death by her mother's rocking

chair. Speaking of herself in the

third person, she rockingly re-

cites: "till the day came, in the

end came/ close of a long day/

when she said, to herself/whom

else/ time she stopped/ time she

stopped. The savage shrug

(several times repeated) of that

rhetorical question "whom

else?" has its counterpart

(again repeated) in That Time:

"you could never he the same

after crawling about year after

year sunk in your lifelong mess

muttering to yourself who else

you'll never be the same after

both for director and per-

formers. How is Mitchell going

their individual impact and

to ensure that the pieces retain

don't simply caucel each other

out? What rehearsni methods

can help release these difficult

but deeply recognisable char-

actors and save the actor from,

as Juliet Stevenson drolly puts

Practical difficulties arise

What Stevenson calls "the merger between real environments and psychological environments" in these works is crucial to the game-plan of Mitchell's production. For both of the three-play groups, the aim is to pull the audience into an overall experience that will be like moving around private rooms that are also interiors of the psyche. Each space will be arranged so that (as Mitchell puts it) there is "absolutely spot-on side-line access" to the visual nub of the matter. For example, in the obsessionally precise repetitive pacing in Footfalls, the character, May, stands more on the right side of the line than on the left: therefore, the arrangement of the scats (different for each show) is biased accordingly. There will be delicate "linking environments", so that as the audience progresses from, say. Footfalls to Rockahr, it will have to travel down May's well-trodden wooden plank and will hear, in an otherwise totally carpeted room.

the amplified sound of its own The logic of the ordering at the pieces is intuitive. Mitchell reveals: a progressive "dwinding" of the visual image and. conversely, a heightening of the aural dimension, climaxing on the demented jabber of Not I. Of course, no amount of ambient stimulus can after the fact that these plays leave an actor horribly exposed and responsible. Beckett's characters are—ship with his mother ("I am,"

at once daunting technical ex- he confessed, "what her savage ercises, demanding the rhythmic. almost impersonal discipline of the most abstract music-making, and recognisable beings who need, in Mitchell's phrase, to be warmed through" to bring

out the common humanity that is in each. As Stevenson says, there are psychiatric names for all the complaints on display here ("obsessive compulsive disorder", for example) but the seemingly extreme behaviour of Beckett's people is just the intense magnification of states most of us have touched on some time. Hence, the various angles of approach needed in the rehearsal room. The kinds of question the Stanislavski Method would ask of a stage character (how old is she? when did her mother die? what's her objective? etc) bear fruit up to a point. The team has decided, as one result of this, to play Rockaby as though the woman has just taken an overdose.

Beyond that, though, the technical demands require drilling and improvisation and games that help, as Mitchell puts it, to "physicalise the thought processes". To clarify the difference between the through-line narrative in these monologues and the enormous parenthetical digressions, they played a game where the actor had to jump in the room between a spot marking "narrative" and a spot marking "parenthesis". Sometimes, Mitchell reveals, the actor was on the parenthesis spot for 10 minutes at a time.

Beckett's troubled relation-

loving has made me") lays its impress on his work. A cynic might argue that he gets his own back on women by making sadistically inordinate demands of the actresses in his pieces. He regularly reduced his female performers to tears with his minutely pedantic stress on particular rhythms and patterns of intonation. The requirements of Not I verge on the inhuman. Stevenson and Mitchell are admirably levelheaded about this, "Well," argues Stevenson, "you can always say 'no'. Nobody is forcing me to do this. Besides, discipline offers such liberation. I don't see how you could do these pieces if you didn't explore why it is he insists on cer-

tain things." I suggest to them that the one stage further Beckett could have gone with Not I was to have had the suspended mouth wired up, as though it belonged to someone who was trying to diet herself to death. But it's as if she has wired herself up for 60-odd years." Stevenson responded, "except for these occasional urges in the winter. And in the end, it isn't just depressing, there's such an energy inside that creature as she tries desperately to find a solution and a way out, The piece feels very benign towards her. She is so full of life – articulate, witty, ironic – that it does not seem a judgement of her. Given that so many women are so mute in so many plays, you certainly can't complain that you're not being given enough lines."

Both director and actor are aware that, without careful handling, a Beckett piece can come across as mere chilly aesthetics. "But," argues Stevenson, "I would say to anyone wanting to break Beckett's rules, 'Well, the rules are delicious." Not to mention monitored diligently by the estate which, perhaps because Edward Beckett liked Mitchell's staging of Endgame and because they want these pieces to find a public, is being more flexible here than it was when it put a stop to Deborah Warner's revisionist 1994 production of Footfulls, with Fiona Shaw.

To lend unity to the season that she has put together for the Other Place, Milchell has invited the excellent young Irish director, John Crowley, to compile a complementary evening of one-act plays by other Irish writers (Synge's The Shadow of the Glen and Riders to the Sea. and WB Yeats's superh Purgutory) which will open in February. Once again, finding the right context and environment is paramount in Crowley's thinking. He wants to rescue these plays from their status (in Ireland) of university funchtime shows and to strip them bare of folksy paraphernalia so that the underlying patterns that bind them can be brought out by, say, the stark, simple use of the same family table.

Together, these evenings represent the kind of coherent programming one craves, the concentrated brevity of the pieces coming from an inner compulsion in the material and not from some external brief to

To 13 November, The Other Place, RSC, Stratford-upon-Avon (benking: 01789 295623). Then 25-29 Nov. Belfast Festival



Beckett's minimalist demands leave an actor horribly exposed; but, as Juliet Stevenson admits: 'Nobody's forcing me to do this' Photo: John Lawrence

THE INDEPENDENT

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Calls, cost 50p per minute at all times. Winner picked at random after hims close 29 October 1997. Usual Newspaper Publiching rules apply. Editor's decision is final

The state of the s

Autumn weaves turn to gold

It's not easy being a woman for all seasons, admits Tamsin Blanchard. But autumn is when fashion comes into its own, with a strong look to take us through to spring. And this year, it'll suit all of us.

Whether you choose grey wool, marronglacé-coloured velvet or shiny, black leather, the trouser suit can be serious, sexy or sumptuous. The grey option is the most practical. Every season, fashion designers decide upon a colour that hides dirt and inflict it upon an unsuspecting public. Once it was black, then it was chocolate brown and this winter, the unanimous choice is grey. Calvin Klein loves it; Miuccia Prada adores it; and unlike black which can be too severe, and brown which can look sludgy, most skin tones love grey too.

If you are a cynical old-fashion back like myself, you would do well to go for a grey trouser suit that doesn't cost the earth. By next winter, grey will no longer be cool and fashionable, but dull and frumpy.

Lineaemme, the new Italian collection that is part of the MaxMara group, quite brilliantly caters for working women. The label has produced a single-breasted herringbone wool trouser suit for under £190. Fenwick bought the range because it has the quality and cut of MaxMara, but at affordable prices. Wear it with a delicate lace top, a pair of Prada-esque flat black laceups and matt-red lips and it'll pass for something much higher up the designer ladder.

Men buy suits to last from year to year. They can either be part of a uniform that changes only according to the weather, or a fashion statement. For women who want a serious but stylish working wardrobe, Jigsaw has the answer. The high street chain won Retailer of the Year Award at last week's British Fashion Awards, and has found success with its best-selling black twill single-breasted trouser suit. This winter, it comes in chocolate brown too.

If you already have one of those from last season, you might want to choose the sleek option in leather instead. The model in our pictures had a struggle getting the trousers on, but eventually they gave enough so that she could zip them up. Don't wordy, though. Models battle with sample size 10 clothes every day. Safely ensconced inside one of the private cubicles at your local Jigsaw, you shouldn't have a problem easing into the right size trousers. And if your thighs are too big, maybe leather isn't for you anyway. The jacket, however, is cut quite generously so that you can wear a jumper underneath. Like all of these suits, the jackets and trousers are sold separately so if you are small of chest and broad of hip, you should be able to get a good fit.

Whatever the fashion of the moment, the ultimate autumn suit is always made of velvet. Look at the leaves turning gold on the trees and find something to match. This one by Whistles positively screams roasted chestnuts and autumn leaves. And what's more, unlike the grey number, a velvet suit will only get better with age.







Above: Gold velvet single-breasted jacket, £225; trousers, £115; and asymmetric shirt dress, £155, all by Whistles, from branches nationwide (enquiries: 0171-487 4484).

Above top right: Grey herringbone jacket £129; trousers £59, by Lineaemme at Fenwick, Bond Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (enquiries and mail order: 0171-629 9161); beaded and embroidered shell top, £75, from selected branches of Monsoon (enquiries: 0171-313 3000); black lace-up shoes £99.50, from branches of Russell &

fer over the top.

ness, and is something she does

Alexander

Above right: Black leather single breasted jacket, £269; black leather trousers, £250; and pale blue sieeveless sweater, £39.95, all from Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, London WI and selected branches nationwide (enquiries: 0171-491 4484).

Photographer: Vikki Jackman Stylist: Charlie Harrington Make-up: Alex Babsky Photographer's assistant: Sarah Model: Serena at Models 1

*Red in claw? No, black, with barbed-wire piercings and a gold filigree overlay ...

The latest ideas in nail varnish? Forget those simple choices between red or pale, dark or frosted. Melanie Rickey claws her way into a weird world of chains, wire and dominatrix.

Dressing up your fingeroails with piercings, colour, and chains - has become the newest way of showing off. At the young British designer Fabio Piras's show during London Fashion Week, the brief for the nail technician company The Untouchables was: "Puerto Rican dominatrix". In response, Susie Marsh and Jackie Jefford shopped for chains, wire, skewers and piercings. Two weeks later in Paris, they were told to interpret "Dolly Parton meets Charlie's Angels in the Wild West" for Alexander McQueen's Givenchy

"I had to do five sets of barbed wire. one set of skewers, five sets of gold and black with diamanté and five sets of red and black with silver chains for Fabio." Susie Marsh reels off the list as if she

really is talking about setting up a dominatrix's lair, when in fact she is talking about 3D nail art.

Kate Oldfield, editor of Nails, a DIY guide to the art, noticed the antics of her 17year-old sister, who spent every Friday matching her nails with her clothes, and decided to do the book, "One week I would see a Mondrian design, the next a daisy. Last week it was combat nails with combat trousers," says Oldfield. In response to her sister's new-found passion, she tried a few de-

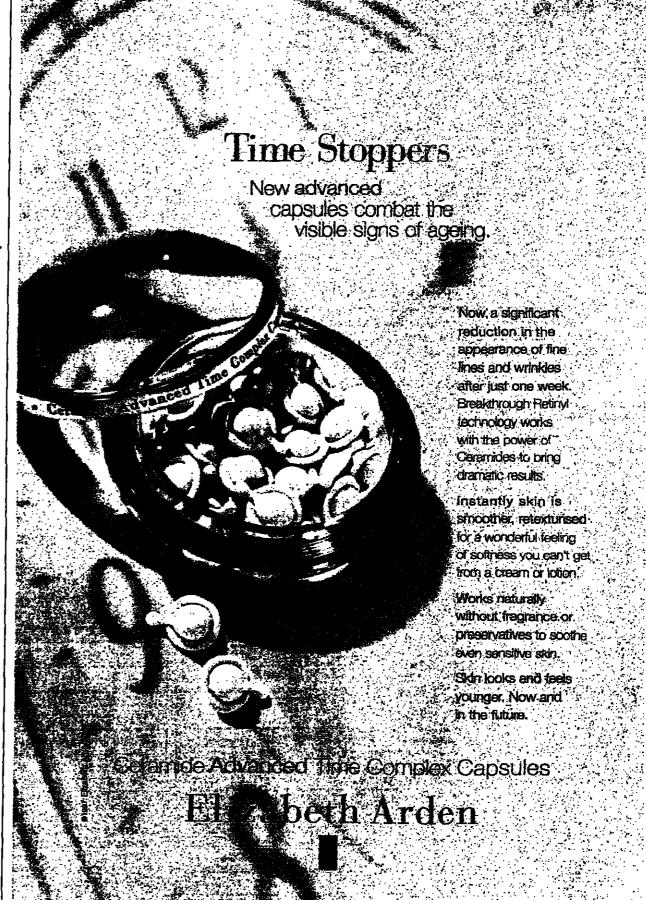
only on special occasions. "I signs out on couldn't do what I did for McQueen or Fabio on a regherself. "One ular basis; it takes too long.' coat of basic gold with a For the Givenchy show Marsh and Jefford bought few blobs of 9,000 individual diamante brown, and pieces that each measured 1.8mm in circumference. "We placed every single one individually, and had do 140 nails in advance, which were painted with an air-brush and stuck to the models own nails," plains. When

got leopard nails," she says. Oldfield's personal favourite is couldn't speak. He said, 'I Chanel's Rouge Noir varnish, know each one of those took an with a fine gold filigree transhour to make."

Marsh sees nail art as a Susie Marsh, in contrast, growing trend. "Mary J Blige alhas been working with nails for ways makes the effort, so does 12 years, five of which were Mel B of the Spice Girls, who spent in training. Her private had Union Jack nails." Nail art clientele includes celebrities, simply another means of page three girls and regular body decoration, like wearing women, who all love their nails a tattoo, or having complicated to be pampered. The 3D nail art is a new addition to the busi-

Fabio Piras has specific views on nails. He chose to use the feisty and rather dangerouslooking designs in his show as a symbol of the way women are perceived by men. "I find it very interesting that women can use their female attributes to get what they want. It's like men and their tattoos," he says. Indeed, women can be perceived as helpless if they have long, ornate nails, but, as Marsh points out, "When men see long red nails they either panic and run, or wait and see." What about when they see 3D textured nails with barbed-wire piercings? It seems that, in this case, the women are having the iast laugh.

The Untouchables, Susie Marsh (0171-381 1778). Jackie Jefford (01722 326 780). Prices, from £10 for direct application to the nail, to £45 for fake nails. came over 'Nails', published by Kyle Cathie before the on 14 November, price £3.99.



The au pair in America: an accident waiting to happen

in a country full of talk about family values, even affluent families are employing girls with no real training or experience to look after their children unaided and unsupervised. David Cohen's examination of the agencies in the au pair market gives rise only to disturbing feelings of cornercutting and risk.

"When we arrived in America, the agency gave us a whirlwind four-day orientation course to life as an au pair in the US. They told us; if the baby cries, don't shake it because it may get brain damage and even die. But I don't remember learning anything else about how to care for an infant," savs Susan (not her real name). Susan is a 19-year-old who, like Louise Woodward. had no real training or experience in caring for infants, aside from baby-sitting, when she took up her placement as an au pair with an American family a few months ago. "I look after a two-year old and a sixyear-old. It's hard work. I certainly don't feel competent to be left on my own all day with a crying infant," she says.

Those who have followed the Louise Woodward trial in Boston may well wonder what on earth the parents of eightmonth-old Matthew Eappen were thinking when they hired an 18-year-old British au pair with no experience, training or qualifications and left her alone with their eightmonth-old son for rune hours at a stretch. Who were they expecting? Mary Poppins?

Deborah Kappen and Sunil Eappen. Matthew's parents, are both specialist doctors and have the financial means to hand-pick the best available childcare. At the agencies that sell childcare to upperincome-bracket American families, they were offered a fresh-faced stranger who was no more experienced than a regular habysitter. Yet they eagerly employed her. Were they negligent? Or is Louise Woodward and her ilk the best they could get?

To the well-off couple, the quality they value above all else is continuity of care. Only 3 per cent of families can afford to buy continuous at-home care however and the way they typically get it is by going through agencies. They browse brochures or surf their Internet websites, all of which



Family values: many Americans seem to be seduced by the idea of a British au pair, however inexperienced

tend to feature photographs of pretty, white girls smiling at pretty, all-white kids.

The agencies insist on au pairs baving "prior childcare experience", but this turns out to be nothing more onerous than "babysitting or looking after younger siblings and enjoying working with younger children". It's nothing near the level of training and experience a highbrow nanny examiner like the NNEB would offer parents in the UK. For this, US families per week, a rate equivalent to the minimum age, less an allowance for room and board.

Recruiting a top-of-the-range au pair seems not dissimilar to walking into Mc-Donalds and asking an 18-year-old behind the till whether they would like a full-time job caring for your six-month-old baby.

But that is only half the equation. Maria, a part-time, voluntary local co-ordinator for an agency in the New York region and pay the agency a handsome fee, approxi- a social worker by training, says that she mately \$4,200 (£2,600). The au pairs are is "shocked by the low standards of some

only paid \$139 (£86) for 45 hours of work au pair agencies in recruiting families and supporting au pairs".

They will take money from a family, without vetting them properly to ensure that their expectations of their au pairs are realistic. They pay each local co-ordinator \$150 (£93) for every family recruited, and if we recruit a certain number over the summer, we get a free trip to Disneyworld.

"Yet for the most important part of our job, providing community support for the au pairs, we get \$20 (£12.50) a month. And we're not even trained ourselves. To become the local co-ordinator, I was subjected to a 10-minute interview by phone. The au pairs get minimum input. The girls arrive, many having left home for the first time, hoping to have a fun year, instead of which they find themselves lonely and isolated, with families who are expecting a maid. It's disgusting. But I had no idea what I was

getting into when I signed up." Why do Americans stand for it? How is it that a nation that can send men to the moon cannot organise safe, quality childcare for its children? Even more alarming,

what kind of stark childcare choices face couples further down the social heap? Ann Collins, a senior researcher on child

care at the National Centre for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, puts the situation in context: "The majority of American families who seek child care are too poor to afford it, and organise help instead from relatives or neighbours. Some of these neighbours, if they look after several children and depending on state regulations, may have to be registered as family childcare providers, (similar to the rather lax regulations for childminders in Britain).

"The remaining 30 per cent of the 10 • million children under five who are in childcare go to day-care centres where the carers are very low paid. They receive no training, or minimal training, and they receive the minimum wage of \$5.15 (£3) an hour. In many cases, where they are "off the books", they receive even less. As a result, those volunteering for this work tend to be unskilled. And of course, as soon as they find a better job, they're off."

This issue is rising up the political agenda: last week, Bill and Hillary Clinton hosted the nation's first ever White House Conference on Child Care. There is recognition that last year's Welfare Reform Bill, which aims to get single mothers off welfare and into work, cannot work unless working mothers have access to quality, affordable childcare.

The aim of the conference was to seek bipartisan support for new policy initiatives, without costing the state too much money, but the problem is that American so- (ciety is ambivalent about mothers who work, and unwilling to provide resources for pre-kindergarten quality care.

But part of the blame seems to lie with the parents' attitudes. "In the US, there just hasn't been a strong appreciation of the need for quality childcare," says Ann Collins. "Research shows that parents think a loving disposition in a carer is enough. They equate the qualities of the carer with their own as parents. They think. I haven't been trained to be a parent, why should anyone else? And it's common here to employ 13-year-old babysitters.

So when an 18-year-old white European from the agency walks through their door, she seems relatively mature and infinitely preferable to the equally inexperienced black or Latino 17-year-old girl who is the alternative. They implicitly trust a white more than they do a person of colour. Racist attitudes play a big part".

And what would they say if Ralph Fiennes had an 18-year-old girlfriend? 'Nice one, mate!'

It's a depressing fact that, while trumpeting the Nineties woman, tabloid papers still can't resist applying double standards. Francesca Annis gets Ann Treneman's sympathies.

The actress Francesca Annis does not look her age, and so she must be very thankful that every story written about her reminds her of it.

"Francesca Annis is 52" they whisper - before going on to tell us that her boyfriend Ralph Fiennes is 34. And, just in case we missed it, it is then noted that this means that Francesca is 18 years older.

Francesca and her age are back

wife, the actress Alex Kingston. Alex - as followers of this saga will know – is also 34.

Now, there are several thoughts that flit through the mind when reading this. The first one (if you are female) is that Ralph Fiennes is a heart-throb. The first one (if you are male) is that Alex Kingston and Francesca Annis are both heart-throbs.

Then, of course, one has to sift through the gossip that clutters up our minds despite the fact that we are all very serious people who prefer to read Wittgenstein rather than Hello! most days. This includes knowing such factoids as that Alex Kingston played a steamy heroine in the TV series Moll Flanders, that Ralph played a very passionate hero in the news again because Fiennes in The English Patient, and that

yesterday got divorced from his Francesca seems to be sexy in almost every part she plays. Then, most people will probably think that divorce is always sad, but that's life in the Nineties.

What does not occur to any of us is that Francesca Annis is a rapacious woman who preys on younger men. But, to read the papers, that is exactly what she is. Francesca, they say, has "made a habit of having affairs with younger men". And when she played the older woman in the hospital drama Reckless, the media

was in heaven. "Francesca Annis has shocked the nation by stripping off and seducing toyboy lover Robson Green in the top hospital drama Reckless," reported one. "But she was just doing what comes naturally. For the passionate fling with Hollywood's hottest young hunk, Ralph Fiennes.'

If she is not too hot to handle, though, there is always the possibility that she has a fixation on being the mother figure. (Admittedly, they did meet when she played his mother in Hamlet, but that was acting.) Thus the headline over a story on them a few months ago that read "Mum's the bird!"

And, when they were snapped kissing in a London street earlier this year, the Sunday Mirror brought in a sex psychiatrist to tell us that their body language shows that Francesca

"just can't stop playing mum".

Turn the tables, and see how strange this really is. Imagine that a 52-year-old man leaves his wife of the same age to take up with a 34stunning 52-year-old is having a year-old woman. Even the moralists

at the Daily Mail couldn't make much of that one in age terms, and there certainly would not be years of coverage of how this man got a sexual thrill out of playing "dad" or

of his penchant for younger women. One of the favourite stories of the Nineties has been that it is no longer the end of the world to be an older woman. We see endless sexy shots of women such as Helen Mirren and Lauren Hutton. "In their prime!" shout the headlines. And yet the reporting on the likes of Francesca Annis shows that we don't really feel comfortable with the idea of sexy older women. We still judge what is appropriate for women and men in this area on entirely different scales.

Francesca Annis knows this, of course, because she is 52 and no fool.



friend; the newly divorced Ralph Fiennes with Francesca Annis, the oider woman. Would anyone comment if the tables were turned?

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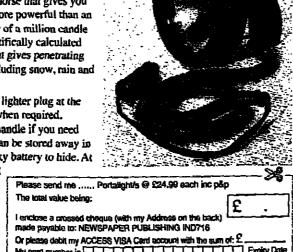
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BELOVED AND BONK

Diary of a divorce



It's all so bloody commonplace, that's what gets me about this being left by your husband business. I keep meeting more and more women whose husbands saw a significant birthday coming and disappeared over the horizon shouting "Run Away Run Away", like something out of Monty Python and The Holy Grail. The stories are so similar that you could simply substitute the appropriate name and

"one size fits all".

Take a plumber, a producer or a printer, a Tory, a tree man or a trades unionist, and stick 'em in divorce-land and they do the same stuff. And the stuff they do could be best described as sticking their fingers in their ears. shutting their eyes and singing. Any individual characteristics, any vehemently professed principles, any endearing little quirks, all utterly obliterated by the overriding need to shut down any emotion and completely ignore what's happening to them.

And just like all the rest. Beloved has become a cliché. What's worse, he's made me into a cliché, too, able to spot all the other divorcees wherever I go.

At the gym, any post-thirty woman who is way too thin, with triceps definition that Arnie would be proud of, won't be wearing a wedding ring. She'll be going at the treadmill as if her alimony payments depended on it, and

will very probably have a tan in February. She'll have lots of girls' nights out with her still-married friends. She'll have girls' nights in with her divorced friends, when they'll drink a bottle of cheap red apiece and detail the identical behavioural faults of their departed husbands. She may even have a boyfriend - some old piece of male flotsam that no one else saw fit to bother with. You have to remember, girls, spare men are like abandoned dogs in a rescue centre; they may look cute, but someone chucked them out for a very good reason.

I can even spot 'em out on the public highroad. The woman in the rather slow and battered car driving home at 10.30pm on a Thursday is a divorcee on an alternative or additional cliché programme: The Path Of Self Improvement and Discovery. This is usually most recommended by married friends, who assume that your break-up is due to some character deficiency (well, they have to, don't they, or it could just happen to them). This is of necessity a fairly narrow little path and doesn't run to world-wide travel, or eight years in a Tibetan monastery, as it should. In fact it runs about as far as a night off from the children will go: a Spanish or uphol-

stery course at the local tech. The only cliché that is even remotely attractive is that of the Revengeful Abandoned Woman, or RAW for short. This has a lot going for it as a cliché - certainly more room for selfexpression than Gym Girl or Upholstery Woman. It's a creative option with lots of scope for using intellectual ability and the long-term intimate knowledge of your ex's personality. And it's a lot more fun to talk about.

A friend of my sister became a RAW after her 59-year-old husband left to ride his Harley in full leathers with his 21-year-old totty on the back. So she sent the totty a present of his denture mug, his Y-fronts and his haemorrhoid ointment, with a little note saying "You should appreciate the whole man."

The trouble with the RAW strategy that it is a no-turning-back option. Once I'd smeared mouldy kipper behind Beloved's radiators, or put used knickers in his fridge, once I'd sent Bonk the eternity ring with a note say. ing "I think this is yours", or had a billboard erected with our wedding photo outside her door, I'd have to admit that it was really Over, not just temporarily but For Ever and Ever Amen.

So I'll have to stick to having good muscle tone (for my age) and learning how to ask my way to the lavatory when in Santander. Oh yeah, and I. guess I'll have to pick up some old mongrel from the dogs' home, too.

Stanley Williams Stanley Williams The George Balanchine, proach and style, the was

Chappel, Essex 5 March 1925: died New York 21 October

"Stanley Williams is my teacher. [He] made me feel the challenge, the potential achievement, the importance of being a dancer."

So wrote the New York City Ballet's artistic director, Peter Martins, about the British-born Danish ballet teacher who shaped future dancers first at the school of the Royal Danish Ballet and then, for 35 years, at the New York City Balletaffiliated School of American Ballet (SAB). Behind Martins's statement lies a wealth of respect and affection that the soft-spoken Williams evoked in those around him with his integrity and sense of commitment. At the time of his death he was still Co-chairman of Faculty at SAB.

"The stress was on correctness and quality [of movement], not on extravagant virtuosity." as Martins says further of Williams in his autobiography, Far from Denmark (1982). Williams combined his) own imaginative approach and instinct with his solid grounding in the Danish school and later with the style of the chore-

There Williams was given

much credit for raising the level of male dancing in the New York City Ballet to a par with the women's dancing through his advanced men's classes at

Williams, a trim, ageless figure who taught in a hushed but good-natured atmosphere of concentration, was known for moulding even less-than-ideal bodies into professional material, through the movement combinations he gave that warmed, shaped and gave speed to muscles and through is quiet individual corrections. His classes were often attended by such dancers as Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nurevey.

The son of an English horse trainer and a Danish mother, Williams lived in Newmarket for the first seven years of his life. After his family moved to Copenhagen, he entered the school of the Royal Danish Ballet at the age of nine, where he was taught by Karl Merrild in pure Bournonville classes. Always a great admirer of the great 19th-century Danish choreographer August Bournonville, Williams came to feel that his connected flow of steps were especially relevant both to his own approach and to Balanchine's

He was also taught by the more international Harald Lander. Joining the company in 1943, William included in his wide repertory the Bournonville ballets, in which he was praised for his purity and clarity. As the Jailor in Léonide Massine's Symphonic Fantastique, he had a great success that helped propel him into the ranks of solodanser (principal) in 1949. Sir Frederick Ashton chose him as the second cast Mercutio in his

1955 Romeo and Juliet, At 24, Williams began teaching at the school. The Russian teacher Vera Volkova, who arrived in Copenhagen in 1951 after her success in London, became the young man's mentor and champion in the face of controversy about his updated teaching methods.

Balanchine invited him to teach first as a guest for his New York City Ballet and from 1964 as a permanent faculty member of SAB. "He knows how to make people move," Balanchine is reported to have said. At his invitation, in 1968 Williams began regularly staging excerpts from the Bournonville repertory as part of the end-of-year SAB workshops (student performances), and in 1977, a suite of

Bournonville Divertissements for the company (videotaped for the Dance in America television series, 1982).

He was always exacting about setting the chorcography as it had been handed down, but adapted the phrasing subtly according to his instinct and allowed the performers to dance as expansively as they were accustomed to doing. This approach aroused strong feelings both pro and con. Dancers trained by Williams

in addition to Peter Martins included Niels Kehlet and Flemming Flindt in Copenhagen; Edward Villella, Fernando Bujones and the current New York City Ballet principals Peter Boal, Albert Evans and Jock Soto, Among those he coached were Darci Kistler: Gelsey Kirkland for her début as Gíselle; and many American dancers in the Bournonville repertory. In recent years, he often taught company class.

Stanley Williams was a man of few words, but cogent ones. When he spoke briefly on being given the Dance Magazine Award in 1981, he saved his final thanks for "all the students and dancers who have put up with me for all these years . . It has made my life so rich and meaningful."



- Marilyn Hunt Williams: a trim, ageless figure who taught in a hushed air of concentration

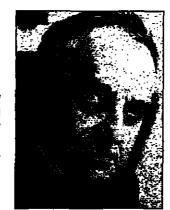
Photograph: Michael Halsband

Maurice Hatton

Maurice Hatton, film-maker born Manchester 22 May 1938; died London 25

Maurice Hatton was one of the most independent-minded film-makers Britain has ever produced. When the National Film Theatre, in 1979, held a retrospective of his documentary and feature films, the programme note said, rightly, that his work could "now be seen as a bridge between the romanticism of the Free Cinema movement and the 'new journalism' of the present-day documentary". But his ferocious unwillingness to compromise meant that he never achieved the wider acclaim that was his due.

Though he was pleased at the NFT showings, his comment was: "The thing about the independent area is that films



Hatton: humane

go from production to retrospective without the intervening stage of distribution." The sardonic one-liner was characteristic. His background was Manchester-Jewish (from which he derived his deep-rooted radicalism); but his other household gods were Groucho Marx and S.J. Perelman.

He was a kind of conscience for many people in British film and television. When Channel Four was launched, Jeremy Isaacs, to his great credit, continued the support for Hatton's work he had begun at an ITV founder-company, Rediffusion. But when Isaacs left for Covent Garden, Hatton found it increasingly hard to win alternative backing. Scandalously, in the 1990s, a moving and unique film about British prisoners of war, who had found themselves at Auschwitz, was never taken up by any British channel - even though Hatton had carried out all the research at his own cost, and Stephen Frears, a close friend, had put up the money to complete it. It only received specialist

Ironically, Hatton died when the apparatchik barriers men in and out of the offices

Imperial War Museum.

showings at, for example, the

seemed to be coming down again. (Perhaps, in the Thatcher-Major years, his unswerving social radicalism was held against him.) Channel Four had last week agreed to finance development work on a 1998 documentary about the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, which he would have co-directed.

Hatton's father worked for the Refuge Assurance Company in Manchester, and the son left school early. But he then took a photography course at a local college, and made the move to London as (at first) a news cameraman. He legged around for an assortment of magazines and newspapers (including, perhaps surprisingly, the Sunday Telegraph, to whose editor he always remained grateful). As a photographer, he was one of the bright young couldn't keep a good Perelmanesque line down. One young woman in the Eye entourage was, he said, "the girl who put the Che in Cheyne Walk". In the early 1960s he co-

of the new Private Eye. But he

founded the independent production company Mithras. As he moved into film and television, much of his work - as director, photographer or producer - was carried out under this banner. At first, he drove around London in a pink Cadillac, in homage to his original ambition of making the sort of commercially successful film he had queued up to see as a Manchester teenager. But, in mises he wasn't prepared to tolerate.

His many documentaries were always humane, always thoughtful, always on the side

of the people who were getting the blunt end of the stick. They included Bitter Harvest (1973), about Cesar Chavez's battle to organise migrant workers in California, in the teeth of both the employers and the corrupt Teamsters' Union. He consid-

ered this his best documentary

His first feature film was Praise Marx and Pass the Ammunition (1968), starring John Thaw, it was knowledgeably ironic about armchair (and bedroom) revolutionaries. He always defined himself as on the left; but he knew that seriousness was not the same thing as solemnity. He didn't fit into any easy category, which didn't help with fund-raising. (His

up a film; Alan Bennett was one of the cameo performers. In 1983, with Channel Four

vails of a producer trying to set

support, he made Nelly's Ver-

sion, an atmospheric adaptation of Eva Figes's claustrophobic novel, starring Eileen Atkins. Channel Four scheduled it for what turned out to be the night of Margaret Thatcher's great post-Falkland election victory. (In public at least, he shrugged this off as "just my luck".) Five years later, Channel Four backed American Roulette, a comedy thriller starring Andy Garcia, in which Hatton also rescued Robert Stephens's then

declining career as an actor. Hatton had an extraordinary network of friends, and did friends got used to seeing Hat- more kindnesses than he would ton scribbling financial calcu- ever take credit for. He was as lations on the backs of famous for his silences as for his envelopes.) In Long Shot jokes. At one lunch, his friend (1978), he chronicled the tra- the cartoonist Mel Calman

decided that enough nonconversation was enough, and he might as well read the paper. Hatton was rather cross about this.

Behind this, however, lay the increasing pressures of the debilitating Crohn's disease, which was first diagnosed in his adolescence. Uncomplainingly, he spent much time in and out of hospital. But, recently - facing down both illness and commissioning editors' neglect of his talents - he had plunged into setting up his appealing concept of a National Gallery of Children's Art. He tackled the job the same way he would have once set about a documentary. The first exhibition is due to be held at the Roundhouse, in London, next year. Like a planned NFT tribute, it will be a memorial to an indomitable

– Paul Barker

Jo Levy

lo Levy, translator and art historian: born London 4 May 1943; died London 24 September 1997.

During a short literary career Jo Levy emerged as one of the few translators of quality of her generation, with an instinctive bility to render French writing.

often of considerable complexity in both style and content, into a flawless idiomatic English that still caught the flavour and

individuality of the original. Her most ambitious translation, of the complete writings of René Magritte, whose literary output was as vast as that of his Surrealist paintings, never appeared - at least not by the

large manuscript, carried by her publisher on a trip to New York, its copy-editing nearly finished, was stolen from a car and never found. It would have taken another year to re-edit, and in the meantime the French publisher, impatient at what was already a long if jus-

tified delay, cancelled the con-

time of her death - because the tract for English rights. Levy took it in her stride: a stoic response to such a waste of her time was in her nature.

Her translation into English of Louis Aragon's Surrealist writings, The Libertine (1987). was exemplary, as was her very smooth rendering of Alain Robbe-Grillet's autobiographical Ghosts in the Mirror: the pa-

perback has just appeared, nine years after the hardback.

Levy's real love was art history, but the need to support herself by teaching gave her little time to take on work offered, too much of which was anyway outside her real interests; in addition her health was always frail. The decline of cultural publishing during the last

decade has meant that much of her work has been long delayed and will appear years after it

was finished. Born in London, she attended the universities of Edinburgh, Aix-en-Provence and finally Sussex. She took a lively interest in all the arts and her wide knowledge of them and of their historical and social con-

text gave her the ability to delve into deeper meaning and annotate them with precision.

Jo Levy was slightly built, dressed and moved with a dark elegance, and was attractive and vivacious, but never married. Leukaemia and other illnesses shortened a life that had so much more to give.

John Calder



Levy: stoical

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

LICHFIELD: To Margaret (née St John) and John, on 21 October 1997 in Paria, a daughter, Grace, a sister to Charles and Clare.

POWELL/HELM: On 25 October to Sarah and Jonathon, a daughter, Jessica Sophia. SHAND: John and Dawn are happy to announce the birth of their son Ewan on 27 October, a brother for

DEATHS
BALFOUR: Michael Creighton. Actor, painter, sculptor, clown. Passed away peacefully at Princess Alice Hospice, Esher on 24 October 1997, leaving Daphne, Shane, Perry, Miranda and Nicola. A much loved Little Bear. Funeral Service at Church of Christ, Prince of Peace, Weybridge, on Friday 31 October at 1pm. Come in colour and with reverence. Preceded by a procession. Private interment to follow. Enquiries to Lodge Bros, 01932 854758.

GARFIT: Brisin Corringham, on 25 October 11 pm. Corringham, on 25 October 11 pm. Corringham, on 25 October 12 pm. Private Interment 12 pm. Corringham, on 25 October 13 pm. Private Interment 14 pm. Private Interment 15 pm. Priva

GARFIT: Brian Corrugham, on 25 October, peacefully in Cambridge, aged 93. Dearly loved by his wife Jean and his children William, Guy, Jill and Georgie, and his 11 grandchildren. Private funeral by his own request.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birdis, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Meronial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorian) should be sent in writing to the Gazetts Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 501, belephoned to 017-293 2010 or fassed to 877-293 2010 are fassed to 877-293 2010 are charged at £5.50 a line (WAT actrs). OTHER Gazetts announcepperits (actices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fassed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daystme telaphone number.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. G. B. Atkinson and Miss M. Takada

The engagement is announced be-tween Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs William Atkinson, of Eaiing, London, and Masami, daughter of Mr Toshio Takada, of Osaka, Japan, and the late Mrs Takada.

Birthdays

Professor Sir Geoffrey Allen, former head of research at Unilever, 69; Sir Derek Bradbeer, former President, Law Society, 66; Dame Anne Bryans, former Chairman, Red Cross and Order of St John, 88; Mr Douglas Cameron, radio presenter, 64; Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley, Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, 64; Mr George Davies, former chief executive and chairman, Next, 56; Miss An-gela Douglas, actress, 47; Mr Richard gela Douglas, actress, 47; Mr Richard Dreyfuss, actor, 50; Mile Edwige Feuillère, actress, 90; Mr Mark Fisher MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Arts, 53; Lady France, Headmistress, City of Lon-don School for Girls, 62; Sir William Gladstone Bt, Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd, 72; Baroness Gould of Potternewton, former director of organisation, Labour Party. 65; Mr Robert Hardy, actor. 72; Dr Tim Holt, Registrar General for England and Wales, 54; Miss Kate Jackson, actress, 48; Dr Paul Mellars, President, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 58; Mr Frank Sedgman, tennis player, 70; Mr Paul Tyler MP,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

56; Mr W. Galen Weston, chairman and president, George Weston Ltd, 57; Mr Rupert Withers, former chairman of Dalgety, 84.

Anniversaries

Births: James Boswell, Dr Johnson's biographer, 1740. Deaths: Sir Walter Raleigh, seafarer and writer, executed 1618. On this day: the New York stock market collapse reached its lowest level, "Black Tuesday" 1929. Today is the Feast Day of St Colman of Kilmacduagh, The Martyrs of Douay, St Narcissus of Jerusalem and St Theuderius or Chef.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2: Professor Ian Stewart, "Travels with my Ant"

Pharmaceutical

Medicine The Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medi-cine of the Royal Colleges of Physi-cians of the United Kingdom was held yesterday at the Royal College of Physicians of London. Profess Peter Stonier was elected President and Professor Waltzer Spitzer was awarded Honorary Fellowship. Sir William Asscher, immediate Past President, took the chair at the Annual Dinner afterwards. Rabbi Julia Neuberger was the guest of honour

Changing of the Guard
The Household Casalry Mounted Regiment sowers
the Ouen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham.

LAW REPORT: 29 OCTOBER 1997

No court jurisdiction over commissioner's activities

The activities of the **Parliamentary** were not susceptible to judicial review.

Regina v Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, ex parte Al Fayed; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery) 15 October 1997

The Court of Appeal granted Mohammed Al Fayed leave to apply to move for judicial review of a report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, but dismissed his

substantive application. Mr Al Fayed bad claimed that Michael Howard MP. when he was a Minister of the Crown, had received a corrupt payment. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards had produced a report in relation to that complaint, in which he had concluded that Ms Howard had no case to

David Pannick QC and Michael Fordham (Dibb Lupton Alsop) for Mr Al Fayed; Stephen Richards (Treasury Solicitor) for the Parliamentary Commissioner.

Lord Woolf MR said that the issue raised by the renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review was whether the supervisory jurisdiction of the court applied where the decision sought to be impugned was neither a decision of the House of Commons nor of one of its committees, but a decision of an independent person who had been appointed by Parliament to exercise an

That issue raised the question of the relationship between the courts and Parliament, a relationship which was central to the constitutional arrangements of the country. It was clearly established that the courts exercised a self-denying ordinance in relation to interfering with the proceedings of

investigative function.

The establishment of the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Standing Committee which had responsibilities in relation Parliamentary Commissioner

Nolan Report. In the Nolan Report itself an analogy was drawn between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the

Parliamentary Commissioner

for Administration, commonly referred to as the Ombudsman. Counsel for Mr Fayed relied strongly on the similarities between the position of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and that of the Ombudsman. There was no doubt that there was a similarity between the two offices. There was, however, a significant and critical distinction between the

two roles. The activities of the Ombudman concerned what could loosely be called the "administration", not the activities of Parliament. The Ombudsman investigated the activities of government. They were the basic fare of judicial review, but the activities of Parliament

were not. It was important to identify the specific function of the

subject of the complaint on the present application. It was the investigation of an allegation that a Member of Parliament had received a corrupt payment. It was right that parliamentary privilege would not prevent the courts investigating issues such as whether a Member of Parliament had committed a criminal offence, or had made a statement outside Parliament which was al-

leged to be defamatory. It was submitted that, consistent with that, the sort of complaint made in the present case did not relate to an activity in respect of which the Member of Parliament would necessarily have any form of parliamentary immunity. The court was not, howev-

er, concerned with what the Member of Parliament was doing, but with the nature of the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. He was conducting his activities under the supervision of the relevant committee, because the activity complained

to it had resulted from the for Standards which was the of could have an effect on the workings of Parliament. That was the really significant distinction between the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Ombudsman.

> The Ombudsman was concerned with proper functioning of the public service outside Parliament. On the other hand, the focus of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was with activities within Parliament.

That being the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, it would be inappropriate for the court to use its supervisory powers to control what the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards did in relation to a investigation of this sort. The responsibility for the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards was placed by Parliament, through its Standing Orders, on the special Standing Committee of the House, and it was for that body to perform that role

and not the courts. - Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171-293 2000 OR 0171-345 2000 FAX: 0171-293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

The world's equity markets have taken on a life of their own. Traders on the floors of New York, Hong Kong and London are behaving like automata, caught up in some global process. Fatalism rules in chancelleries and prime ministerial suites, even in the Oval Office. What science is there to tell us where this financial version of strange weather will take us next? Certainly not economics.

It may seem an odd day to assert that markets are there to be bucked, but the argument is there to be made, prompted by the story we carried the other day about. Nike, the sportswear company. It goes like this. The power of consumers is grossly neglected - not least by consumers - and great corporations run huge risks when they ignore the sentiments and value judgements of those who buy their products.

One of the great cliches of modern business history was, head East, young man eastwards, that is, towards cheaper labour costs. How many times did hair-shirt Thatcherites warn British workers in the Eighties to mind their p's and q's and drop their wage demands, for fear of seeing production exported?

As with all business stories, this one turned out to be a lot more complicated. Certain products did not travel well. But among those which did move East and stay was shoe production. Labour intensive, demanding an agile but highly flexible workforce, the manufacture of sports shoes moved initially to South Korea and Taiwan - where the presence of authoritarian governments did no harm. Later, production shifted again to even more benign climates, in China, Vietnam and

This, more or less, is the story of Nike, which has grown big supplying the joggers of the Occident with rubber soles shaped in the Orient. But recently Nike has been sharply criticised for exploiting its mainly female workforce. The company is accused of turning a blind eye to abuses by its local

managers and subcontractors - despite its attempt three years ago to impose a code of good conduct on its suppliers. Women making shoes that are later sold under the Nike brand name are said to be beaten, and to suffer sexual harassment.

It is a fact that Nike pays low wages low by American standards. That is the reason why its profitability has lately been so impressive. For its part, Nike argues that its rates of pay are good by local standards.

But there is the rub. Do relativist arguments carry all before them? Is forced overtime (one of the allegations) really an oppression in a society where paid work of any kind is scarce? In the United States Nike has lately come under pressure from a coalition of women's and religious groups, including a number of black organisations. But will American black youth sympathise sufficiently with the women of Vietnam to want to pay an extra \$10 for a pair of ultra-fashionable sneakers? Consumer campaigns such as

this do allow a pretty exact calculus of compassion.

It seems likely that the anti-Nike campaign will soon come here. But British consumers, like their American counterparts, are generally passive when it comes to enquiries about the provenance of the goods they buy. What will it take to make them ask questions? Their theoretical power is huge. Nike is in a competitive market where fashion can shift demand rapidly. Among its consumers are many younger people who, in principle, tend to be open

to arguments based on sentiment. Cynics will say that the power of large corporations rests firmly on habit and convenience - and the power of their advertising. There is an old argument - from Thorstein Veblen through to Kenneth Galbraith - which identifies the power of corporations with their control of the flow of information. But in the modern world it is easy to find out what corporations such as Nike or McDonald's have no wish to

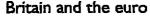
publicise. And even then, consumers tend to stay with the devil they know.

Does that mean that campaigns such as the one against Nike are doomed? When apartheid imploded in South Africa a lot of people felt that their decision over the years to boycott produce from that country played some, small, role in the event. "Infinitesimal" might be a better word than "small" - though the boycott did contribute to the eventual release and emancipation of Nelson Mandela, But South Africa was a big issue, carried - in Britain - by the forces of party politics. Moral energy is limited. Good causes are legion. The fate of South-east Asian women workers may be too small an issue to command widespread attention,

That said, consumers ought at least to know. It is our duty, among others, to augment the flow of facts. The customer may always be right, but is surely also obliged to know when he or she is condoning a

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LETTERS



Sir: In stating, in his speech to Parliament on the single European currency, that "the determining factor is the national economic interest". Gordon Brown has allowed short-term considerations to overshadow what are far more important long-term realities (report, 28 October).

This measure will have lasting cultural and psychological implications for Britain which will long outlive our temporary economic and political position. British men and woman, with euros in their purses and pockets, conscious that these are spendable across Europe, will inevitably be drawn closer to European influence and away from the American cultural hegemony which has been dominant since the Second World War.

The decision not to join from the beginning will give Britain once again the sense of that late-arriving stranger which was felt in 1973 when we joined the EEC. France and Germany together will once again call the shots on the future imaginative development of the EU.

UÞ

A nation is not just a bundle of economic and short-term business interests - it is a dynamic organism whose growth and self-regard can take decades to mature. In opting for short-term business and economic criteria the Chancellor has made no mention of what his stance might mean, culturally and psychologically, to Britain 50 years from now. IAN FLINTOFF London SW6

Sir: What makes politicians think that they will decide when we start using the euro? In 1999 it is expected that 13 out of 15 **European Community nations** will join, leaving just the UK and Greece outside.

International companies will convert their product price lists, accounts and pay lists to euros. Transport (sea and air) will be priced in euros. All major exchanges in Europe will be using curos. The City of London will be losing business.

Already UK retailers are planning to convert tills to euros in 1999. If banks and stock exchanges follow this change, the UK will follow, whether politicians like it or not. PETER TATTON-BROWN Branscombe, Devon



Rights commission

Sir: Your leading article on incorporation of the European Convention (25 October) came to the surprising conclusion that the Government was right not to provide in the Bill for a human rights commission, on the grounds that it would foster a "culture of complaint".

This is to misunderstand the key role that the commission would play, not only in ensuring access to justice where legal aid may not be available. but in achieving exactly the kind of reform which you rightly say should be the paramount concern.

Ministers and officials could obtain new awareness through the process of challenge in the courts, assuming that individuals can obtain the advice and assistance they need to pursue their case. But how much better it would be if we had a statutory body whose primary role

was prevention, promoting good practice within government and public bodies, so that the danger of human rights infringements occurring was reduced.

A human rights commission would certainly have a role in supporting individuals, and in taking public interest test cases to clarify the law. However, its role in scrutinising draft legislation in training and in education could and should prove of greater impact than the outcome of cases in court. SARAH SPENCER

Director Human Rights Programme Institute for Public Policy Research London WC2

Inclusive education

Sir: I am the chair of governors at Harborough School, a special school for autism. We believe that children with special educational needs should be educated in mainstream schools wherever possible. However, to say that educating our children is a "challenge" is to underestimate the energy, ingenuity, and insight which staff in our school need to bring to their

Inclusive education as political dogma has been growing for some years. The consequences are that more children are being sent to schools in local education authority areas beyoud their own or into private and voluntary sector placements, often at very great expense. At best this simply increases costs while at worst it divides parents from their child-

ren's schooling.
Where local authorities remain committed to maintaining special schools, budgets are constantly under threat. We are faced currently with severe cuts in our provision for younger children. I am sure our local

education authority, which necessarily has to concentrate on mainstream schools, has not thought through the consequences of its policies as applied

to special schools. For this reason, and others. I would welcome a regionalisation of funding for special schools, although what appears to be an arbitrary redefinition by the Government of the number of children in need ("Labour plan to resolve special needs dilemma", 23 October) smacks more of central planning and less of assessment leading to meeting the real needs of children. CHRIS KING

Chair of Governors Harborough School London Ñ3

Sir: My heart sank when I heard David Blunkett announcing that he intends to close more schools for children with special educational needs.

These children will not benefit from mainstream education unless the funds previously used for their education are immediately directed to the main-

stream schools receiving them. Already teachers are stretched to the limit coping with large classes which include many children whose needs are not considered sufficiently "special" to merit separate education, but who nevertheless require a disproportionate amount of their teachers' time.

Closing specialised establishments is used as a way of saving money (as in the disastrous "care in the community") when in fact, wherever they are catered for, special needs require the same funds. IANE KEMPTON Leamington Spa Warwickshire

Sir. Even the most dedicated inclusionist statement - issued by Unesco after a conference in

1994 - recognised that deaf children have a right of access to their national sign language, and that enhancement and recognition of their language and identity could often mean dedicated units or schools. The issue is very complex, and wellmeaning people are at risk of encouraging decisions that will

damage those who are already disadvantaged. MARGARET ARCHER Bockleton, Worcestershire

Safe in the asylums

Sir. The call for "safe havens" for schizophrenics (letter, 24 October) is sensible and humane. They did, of course, exist once - they were called asylums, and they had space, gardens, fields, and workplaces to provide the environment that we now seem so desperately to

JULIAN MUNBY

Repeat driving tests

Sir: I support any measure that will reduce poor driving standards and road casualties, but do the proponents of a repeat driving test ("Drivers face 10year refresher tests", 27 October) really think that habitual speeders and the perpetrators of "road rage" will exhibit their bad behaviour under test conditions? A much higher priority should be the enforcement of existing laws.

Until there is a public recognition that something more radical has to be done to curb the selfishness of those who regard speed as their special prerogative at the expense of the public at large, I and many others will regard calls for repeat tests as a cynical political stunt to convince the unthinking that something is being done, where there is in fact no will at all to take the simple and obvious action that

ROGER IREDALE Whaley Bridge Derbyshire

Bloodthirsty Scots

Sir: The proposal to form a Scottish Defence Force ("Bravehearts stirred by army plan". 27 October) will spread alarm and despondency throughout the north of England.

Tales of raids across the Border by bloodthirsty Scots are still remembered in many quiet English villages. Peace came only when the crowns were united by James I, who dealt firmly with notorious terrorists such as Armstrong of Gilnockie.

The threatened end of that union, together with the proposal you describe, underlines an urgent need to recreate the Northumberland Fencibles. ROBIN L PLACKETT

Priceless Van Gogh

Newcastle upon Tyne

East Lothian

Sir: I see you have uncovered yet another Van Gogh forgery a mirror image of the sunflowers bought by a Japanese collector for £24.7m (report, 27 October). What could this version be worth? JOHN BUSBY Ormiston

How to survive a police speed trap if caught hairdryer in hand: a reader writes



KINGTON

from readers who are better informed than I am about certain things (or, in some cases, about everything) and I leave these letters lying about, admiringly rereading them now and again until a point comes when I suddenly realise I have enough points from readers to make a complete article, and thus absolve me from coming up with an idea of my own.

Such a point has been reached today, and the first letter out of the privileged pile is from Harry Morrison of Barnes, who wrote to me in July about police speed traps.

Yes, I know July is a long time back, and I know Mr Morrison must be wondering what kind of columnist doesn't

reply to letters, but now I have written back to him, explaining that I am the kind of columnist who saves up letters with good points to make until such time as I have enough of them ... See first paragraph for rest of

At that time I had reported the case of a man who tried to slow down the speeding traffic outside his house by pointing his wife's bairdryer at it. There were two results. One, the speeding drivers all thought it was a speed-reading device and slowed down. Two, he was prosecuted by the police for infringing police duties.

I wanted to know under what law he could possibly have been prosecuted, and also whether it was illegal to warn or to make any statement, or do

trap ahead. Mr Morrison, who I take to

be a lawyer, both from his knowledge of the law and from his hasty handwriting (indeed, his signature may well be Murchison), says that he cannot think of any regulation under which the man with the hairdryer might be prosecuted, unless it were section 90 of the Police Act 1996, replacing an earlier provision.

He has duly supplied me with a copy of this section, on impersonating a police officer, which makes it unlawful to wear uniform or possess uniform, or even a badge, which might lead people to think you were a member of the police.

people about a police speed any act which shall falsely Automobile Association was suggest that you are a police-

Well, doing anything or saying anything covers a lot of ground, and I suppose that holding out a hairdryer at speeding cars might come under the heading of doing something which suggests that you are a plainclothes policeman. (Though it this means that only a policeman is allowed to measure the speed of cars, I think something is very wrong). And when it comes to warning motorists of impending speed traps, it seems that things are

equally risky. A Mr Kenyon Alexander, of Stratford-upon-Avon, wrote to tell me (also last July - letter on its way, Mr Alexander!) that the originally formed partly to protect car drivers against speed traps, and indeed I can remember the days which he recalls, when the failure of an AA patrolman to salute a member was code for "Speed Trap

Ahead, Sir ...' Both saluting and nonsaluting have vanished from an AA man's duty, but Mr Murchison (or is it Mortimer?) has sent me a fascinating résumé from the Weekly Law Reports of 1982, of a case in South Wales in which a policeman was prosecuted by the police for warning the public against a police

Briefly, the accused constable knew that his fellow police were planning a raid on

a pub in Chepstow where afterhours drinking often took place, and that one of their number would be drinking there, out of uniform, that

This pub was the constable's local, and he felt moved to use his confidential knowledge to protect it. So he got word to the landlord that a police raid was planned, and that the man sitting drinking all by himself was

The result was that the plainclothes drinker got a very chilly reception, no after-hours drinking took place, the raid failed, and the copper who grassed on his mates was prosecuted for obstructing the police. He was found guilty, and appealed. The appeal judge

found for him, hearteningly, on the grounds that (as far as I can make out) no offence was being committed at the time of the warning, so the police constable was not stopping a crime being committed, even though the police had good reason to think that one might have been committed later on.

Where this leaves the motorist in the street who flashes his lights to warn oncoming motorists of a speed trap, I do not know, and nor I suspect does Mr Morrison (I fancy after all that his name is Morrison). I know where it leave me, though. It leaves me. with a whole pile of other readers' letters to fillet. Until tomorrow, then, ladies and gentlemen!

Double standards for the unheroic men of football



SUZANNE **MOORE** THE SPORT OF WIFE BEATING

I am as partial to Fantasy Football as the next girl. My dream team would consist entirely of footballing geniuses who just happen to beat up women. These lads may have "problems" off the field but what the hell, they are gods on it. We could have Gazza and Ryan Giggs up front and I am sure we can rustle up a few others. Leslie Ash may have dropped the charges against ex-Leeds striker Lee Chapman but those charges were for criminal damage and common assault. I'm sure there are enough young boys out there keen enough to emulate their soccer heroes who could be drafted in to this team. This wouldn't be a problem at all.

No, the problem would be to find a team to oppose them. The managers, the sportswriters, the footballing establishment, the tabloid press? Surely between them we could cobble a team together to take on the wife-beaters. Well, no actually. That's where the fantasy ends because no one seems to really want to do anything about the appalling behaviour of our footballing superstars. Failing a drugs test is serious. Breaking your ex-girlfriends nose in a night-club merely a hiccup ... Well, you have to remember that Giggs had scored two goals that day so was possibly "high-spirited or "hot-headed" or all those other euphemisms that have been used.

Other words that might be used for such behaviour are out of control and out of order. To beat up a woman behind closed doors is bad enough, to do it in public is a sign of that you think you can get away with anything, that normal rules no longer apply at all. It is no wonder that characters like Giggs may feellike that. Only 23 he will be, it is said, Britain's richest footballer by the time he is 30. He has money and talent to burn. Much of this money comes from sponsorship deals. He already promotes Reebok, Citroen cars, Fuji film and the meat substitute Quorn.

haviour appears to have more to do with the damage to his earning capacity than the damage he did to his ex-girlfriend Davinia Murphy. When Murphy appeared in a night-club, according to a witness "He (Giggs) just walked up and punched her in the stomach. Then he punched her in the face and dragged her back by the hair". Agent Eric Hall is supposed to have commented, "Hopefully this was a one-off and sponsors will probably turn a blind eye this time. But if he carries on, these are the sort of headlines that could endanger sponsorships."

That's terrible isn't it endangering sponsorships? Endangering women is apparently not worth commenting on.

Well, there is nothing we can do about the sports establishment. Davinia Murphy is not pressing charges. Leslie Ash having dropped the charges against Lee Chapman has been photographed kissing and makingup. If the women themselves won't do anything, then its none of our business

Yet cosseting footballers is precisely the business that managers, sports writers, agents and to some extent fans are part of. Young players such as Giggs are enormously indulged and protected at the same time. The peculiar kinds of male bonding that go on in team sports are seen to be fully acceptable, even heroic. If wives, girlfriends, families suffer for the game that is because

at the end of the day the game is worth it.

The rock n' roll lifestyle that someone like Giggs is able to live is the stuff of teenage dreams. Last week, genuine rock and rollers Oasis were roundly condemned for swearing on the radio. Loutish verbals at a time when children might be listening are considered beyond the pale. Breaking a woman's nose in public however is well ... unfortunate.

When I wrote about Gazza suggesting that a known wife-beater shouldn't be in the England squad, many decent chaps explained to me that what men, especially talented footballers, do in their private lives is not relevant. This division between the private and public is of course what maintains the status quo, enabling domestic violence to be seen as an entirely personal rather than a political issue. However, these latest assaults on women are not going on in private. We all read about them.

Graphic representations of domestic violence, such as the one in Gary Oldman's brilliant film Nil by Mouth, are almost unbearable to watch. In the film the central character beats his wife to a pulp because he thinks she fancies someone else. Giggs is said to have been jealous of reports of his ex-girlfriend with another man. Men do this, they so often say, out of love. Some women helieve this to be true, in which case, god help them. What Nil by Mouth make horribly clear is that beating up women is related to other kinds of bullying that may or may not end in violence.

What then, are the links between bullying and the training of footballers? Why are so many of them out of control? What is it in the masculine code that allows none of them to break rank and condemn the behaviour of a wife-beater? I am sure that these boys are under pressure but that is not an excuse. Lots of other sportsmen are under pressure, lots of public figures are under pressure and lots of ordinary people are under tremendous pressure without being cushioned by wealth and fame. It seems that the mythology of "pressure" itself contributes to the problem. Rituals that involve letting off steam are part of the camaraderie that surrounds football. Beating up women therefore becomes normalised, an instance of a lad going slightly too far, rather than begin seen for what it is: a crime, immoral, and totally unacceptable.

As football has become domesticated, with n and more literary ku has now become a sport that women and children can enjoy. Fun for all the family. This other kind of violence appears to erupt from nowhere rather than being connected to the game. It is time to make those connections. It is no use having Zero Tolerance campaigns widely understood by the public, if in public, our soccer superstars behave like monsters.

If Giggs had made an unprovoked racial

attack he would be in court by now. If we continue to turn a blind eye as well as the other cheek, then you can expect to see on the front of your newspapers more pictures of women with black eyes, broken noses and swollen cheeks. This is Pantasy football for you alright, the fantasy being that belting a ball across a field gives you licence to belt a woman across the face whenever it all gets too much to handle. It's a disgrace and those who claim to love the game are letting the side down badly if they chose to remain silent about it. The question is whose side are they on and whose side are they prepared to let down.



A stock market investor in Australia yesterday watching shares plunge: bad for him, good for the rest of us

Photograph: Reuters

How to learn to love stock markets even when they crash



DIANE **COYLE FINANCIAL** SECURITY

All the old jokes have been wheeled out in the City of London, the ones that start with skyscrapers and end with the punch line: "It's raining brokers again tonight." A financial crisis is always great drama, complete with pictures of a grave chorus of dark-suited experts punctuating the news bulletins. But the fact that the reaction to this week's crash has slipped into the familiar routine of criticising the financial markets as irrational and destructive should not obscure the fact that they play an ever more essential role. In an increasingly insecure world we must learn to love the markets, wild, chaotic and tumultuous as they can

Let's make no bones about it. A stockmarket crash is a pain. But it should not turn us against financial markets, any more than you stop loving your toddler just because he's having a tantrum.

This might seem a contrary view to take at a time when even the high priest of financial

speculation, George Soros, has been expressing his concerns about global capitalism. In a speech he gave in Hong Kong last month Mr Soros warned: "1 cannot believe that the present boom will not be followed by a The 1997 crash starts from a bust until history has proven me much higher level of wrong," Once again, the Great Speculator got it right.

His speech was billed as a riposte to the anti-market rantings of Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister who had called for a ban on financial trading. But the arch-speculator agreed with his arch-critic in one thing, saying the instability of the financial markets could cause serious social and economic dislocations. Mr Mahathir was voicing the frustration of being unable to connect the funny money of the billions gambled in the markets with the real world effects. "No real money is involved,

only figures," he grumbled. It was voiced yesterday by the great economist John Kenneth Galbraith. Psychology alone drives the stockmarket, he said. as much now as three centuries ago when the mania was for tulip bulbs rather than shares. It has nothing to do with what is happening in the real economy, yet the whims of the traders are allowed to damage the wealth of ordinary investors like you and me. Only up to a point, Professor Galbraith.

The first thing to note is that as stockmarket crashes go this one is - so far at least - a tiddler. In October 1987 Wall Street lost nearly a quarter of its value in a single day and then fell some more. This tenth anniversary crisis is not over; but ecutives has increased the exalthough it could match up to 1987's crash eventually, it is

nowhere near as severe yet. Secondly, by October 1988 shares in the US and UK had more or less regained their pre-crash levels, and, until this month, they had gained in value ever since. wealth. This has some connection with reality, it reflects the steady economic expansion of

the past six years.

Even more relevant is the fact that many professional investors, the anonymous fund managers who look after the money invested in our pensions and insurance policies, have been prepared for a stockmarket crash for a long time. It has been clear for at least a year that Wall Street was being inflated by a speculative bubble. Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chairman, gave clear notice of this when he warned about the markets' "irrational exuberance" last Deinvestment managers - most of them have coution as their middle name - have been switching funds out of the overblown equity markets for months. They have been criticised for it too, for missing the last puffs of the speculative bubble. But they will have insulat-

from the effects of the crash. Individual investors will not be so lucky, and there are many more of them in America there used to be. (In Britain, however, individual shareholding is not so widespread). The growth of mutual funds and the spread of stock options as a component of pay for exposure of individual Americans to the crash. There are two

ed the vast majority of their

investors and policy-holders

straws of comfort. One, the lesson of history is that the bigger the boom, the bigger the bust. We should always be grateful for a crash because if it happened later, it would be worse. Two, the US economy has been growing so fast that the Federal Reserve was poised to slow down spending by raising interest rates. A gentle deceleration would have been preferable to an emergency stop, but the brakes were about

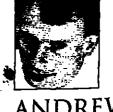
to go on anyway. In the western world, not since 1929 has stockmarket crash spelled economic disaster. In his classic history of financial crises, Manias, Panics and Crashes, Charles Kindleberger concludes that central banks have learned to supply extra credit to the financial system to offset the sudden contraction of share capital. This worked, if anything, too well in the aftermath of 1987 when to light the touchpaper on the late eighties boom.

Crises in the financial markets are inevitable but also manageable. They should not distract attention from the fact that financial markets are essential for our well-being. Withinvestment, because it is the

stock and bond markets that finance much of it. Just as important, the markets are a crucial tool for managing risk in an increasingly uncertain world. A crash makes it look as though those yelling traders are the source of financial risk. It's quite the reverse. Why has the strong pound not yet led to a collapse in British exports? Because many businesses have used the markets to hedge their foreign currency exposure for a year or two. Why are elderly people drawing a company pension so well off these days? Because their pension fund has invested in a growing range of financial markets to spread the risk and increase the returns.

Financial markets offer the only means we have of insuring against the future, whatever it may hold. The more intertwined the world becomes, the more complex and uncertain, markets. Those scenes of hysteria in dealing rooms over the past few days are entirely rational, because the traders are taking the risks for the rest of us. Individually some of them might be big losers on the day, but the rest of us are all gainout them there would be little ers from the system their efforts keep in being.

Tony and Gordon cast their magic spell over the Emu debate



ANDREW MARR DECISION ON THE EURO

We are led by magicians. For years the great issue of British sovereignty and the single currency has riven the political nation. Parliament, the Tory party. the great ones of the media establishment, numerous thinktanks - all have been tearing and snarling, perspiring and refuting, as they struggle with the im-

plications of that historic choice. Is the loss of political power at home worth the extra benefits of membership? Will it mean a convergent fiscal policy, and the start of a genuine

single European government? What about the effect of a single interest rate on different economies, and the pain that will be felt by the fringe, because of a policy designed for the golden centre of Europe? What about the necessary higher taxation to soothe the pain? What about History, Blood, Sovereignty, Honour?

And now - Zing! - it has gone. For the lifetime of the first Blair administration, all those "what abouts?" have disappeared in a flash. The great choice facing the nation is no more. It is an ex-issue. The Chancellor declares that

it is a matter of economics, not politics. Nothing will happen for years. Then there will be an election. Then there will be a referendum. The People will choose. They will look in the Mirror and be warmed by the Sun and listen to Tone and, in the end, everything will be fine.

Tony Blair said it in tabloid articles this week: "The Government is united, strong, facing up to tough choices and coming up with the right answers. The Tories are divided and taking decisions not in the national interest..." So that's all right, then. But what of this

a good thing, we will do it, but if it is not a good thing, we will not do it. ("It would be folly for Britain to reject something if it were clearly in Britain's interests to accept it.")

And the nation, most of it, goes: oh, good. The pro-Europeans, though nervous about the wait, assume that we are on our way to Emu membership, while the antis, noting the conditions and the apparently faraway nature of the decision, cool down and even purr.

This is alchemy. To have both Rupert Murdoch and the great panjandrums of the EU acquiescent is a genuinely extraordinary feat. But someone is being fooled. The someone, I believe, is

Mr Murdoch and the other anti-EU forces in politics, business and the media. Because if the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, in between the soothing words and cautious elaboration of possible timescales, have both said they see no principled objection to abolition of the pound, then that event is brought nearer. Up to now, the overall direction of official British policy on mon- cal impact.

tough choice in particular? etary union has been sceptical Well the answer is this: if it is to the point of wilful blindness about what is going on on the continent: not Emu but Ostrich.

Now, that will change. Ministers will meet regularly to plan our entry. There will be hundreds of business breakfasts, organised by Government Lord Simon will begin to prepare the corporations for the buge changes they will have to make. In thousands of smaller companies, chief executives will call in their senior staff and demand to know what it will all mean for Bodgersoft Systems or Oatcake International. The Bank of England will assume that monetary union is a distinct possibility, and set up working groups there. Manufacturers of ills, slot machines and public telephones will spend more. time on redesigning for the pos-

sibility of entry. Thus, with a broad wink, does a modern government stir up a great, if discreet pul-Inlation of behind-office-doors activity. The nearer we get to the next election, the more hours and money will have been invested across Britain in preparations for Emu. And that in itself will have a politi-

People's energy will have been committed and - assuming that the currency has been introduced with reasonable order in France and Germany their emotional enthusiasm for the change will follow. As corporate propaganda begins to build on the radio programmes and in the papers, it will start to seem somehow inevitable. The national fulcrum will move. By the election ~ again, assuming that there hasn't been monetary disaster on the continent - the opinion polls will already look very different and the anti-Emu forces will look

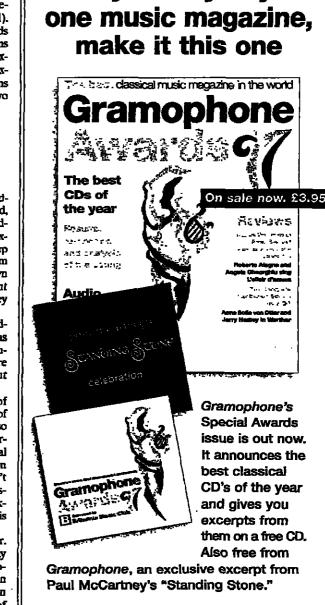
out of touch. That, anyway, is the political strategy that must lie behind this week's statement. Unless Brown and Blair have suddenly forgotten all their strategic thinking, they already know where they want to end up. If they are telling the nation to begin preparing to lose the pound, the end-point is obvious.

They don't want to make Emu the main issue at the next election, because to do so would certainly mean losing the backing of their best new churns in the media. But they do want to fight with the Conservatives as the anti-Emu party; that means they intend to methodically reshape the battleground, public opinion, to their own advantage in the meantime. Expect a slow and steady build-up of pro-Emu propaganda from here on in, with Blair-Brown themselves keeping a prudent step or two behind as they guide the campaign.

As a strategy, it could hardly be clearer. Quite why this has escaped some of the pro-European commentators who are wringing their hands about Brown's speech beats me. The Prime Minister, of

course, is disappointing some of his friends yet again by being so apparently timid. This exercise won't raise his personal stature among them here, or on the continent. But it wasn't meant to. This sidling-towards-Emu-while-whistling-and-looking-the-other-way business is clever, not brave.

But, dammit, it is clever. One only has to look at the way in which the venomously xenophobic Murdoch press has been tickled and cozened to gape in admiration. In the end, of course, magic is trickery. But take your hat off to them these people are very professional magicians indeed.



Award yourself a copy now.

If you only buy

New York and London pull back from the abyss but Hong Kong's plunge continues

An extraordinary day on the world's stock markets saw Hong Kong plunge to its biggest ever fall, London pull itself back from the abyss and New York defy the doomsters with a dramatic return to form after its record-breaking collapse on Monday. Tom Stevenson Danielle Robinson and Stephen Vines followed the roller-coaster ride through the time-zones.

It was over as quickly as it began. Dealers on Wall Street unexpectedly changed their minds vesterday afternoon and started buying shares as frantically as they had previously sold stock. The impact was immediately felt in London where a catastrophic early loss of almost 10 per cent was almost wiped out by the close of a breathtaking day's trading.

The FTSE 100 index, which had fallen as much as 458 points within half an hour of the market opening yesterday morning, closed only 85.3 points lower at 4755.4 as dealers gained heart from a massive reversal in sentiment on Wall Street. But the recovery in the Dow Jones index, up by more than 230 points at lunchtime in New York after an initial 186 point plunge, came too late to prevent a rout of Asian markets.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index suffered its biggest ever one day points fall, wiping a further 14 per cent off the market and taking the fall since its peak in August to almost 50 per cent. Japan's Nikkei index also slumped by more than 4 per cent and other smaller Pacific markets such as Australia and New Zealand were even harder hit as they reacted to Monday's record-

breaking fall on Wall Street. The recovery in New York fuelled hopes that the collapse in markets around rection and not the start of a damaging bear

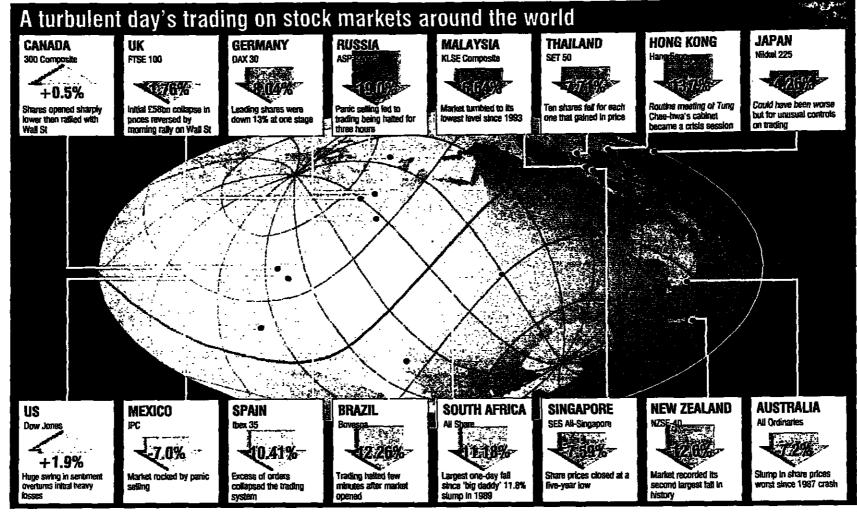
It rejuvenated the London market after one of the blackest starts in its history. The fall of 457.9 points in the first half hour's trading was easily the worst nominal performance ever for the FTSE 100 index. almost twice the 250 point fall on the Tuesday of the 1987 crash even if it represented a smaller percentage fall.

Halfway through the morning session, calm was restored as the feared panic selling failed to materialise and investors began to reassess economic fundamentals, especially the likelihood that a hike in interest rates would now be deferred. Analysts pointed to the relationship between the yield on equities and bonds which they said is much less stretched than it was ten years ago.

That confidence was mirrored on Wall Street later in the day, with analysts saying the US market had set the stage for a worldwide rally in stocks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shrugged off Monday's historic plunge, making a spectacular 300plus point turnaround from morning lows.

The S&P 500 was up about 9.27 points and the Nasdag witnessed the most stunning about face from a 4 per cent plunge in the morning to a 30 point rise by lunchtime. The rise in the US reversed early dramatic falls in the hard hit Latin American bourses.

Although leading market analysts warned there could be weeks of wild market swings before the US and other world



markets really began a sustained recovery, investors were yesterday rushing in for bargains in the US and are expected to follow suit in Europe today.

"The fundamentals haven't changed at the world in recent days was nothing more all. We have just had this big blow-off, which than a short-term, if badly needed, cor- is healthy." said Rob Reiner, portfolio manager at BT Investment International Equity Fund in New York. "We are now up substantially and that will cause a massive world rally tomorrow",

Reiner argued the plunge in US stock prices was a much needed blowoff of steam in a market that's done nothing but go up for the past two years. "We have not had a real 10 per cent correction off the highs since 1990 and Monday was a big chance to basically get it out of the way," he said.

Driving investors was the broadness of the rally and most particularly the spec-Nasdaq market. Also boosting yesterday's recovery was IBM's vote of confidence in

its stock by announcing it would buy up to \$3.5bn worth of its own shares in a buyback

A growing view that the rout since last Thursday was a knee-jerk reaction to Asian markets rather than any fundamental change in the US's economic outlook also supported investors' resolve to jump back in for bargains.

The lack of any perceived panic by the millions of small US investors which have been behind the Dow's meteoric rise in the last several years also lifted confidence.

"We had a selling climax," said Phil Roth, senior technical analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. "That means it was an emotional liquidation of stocks and now we have a rebound from that emotional liquidation."

vestors in all markets globally to brace themket is up doesn't mean that everyone can Zealand shares. Australia was next line and

'The fundamentals haven't changed at

all. We have just had this big blow-off,

go back into the water," said Walter Murphy, senior international market analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York. "This is just a pause in an otherwise still developing decline."

Although a bottom to the US market could be hit soon, history has shown that when markets suffer double digit corrections they can endure as much as three months of wild gyrations before embarking on a sustained recovery.

In Asia, panic selling had earlier gripped financial markets for the second day running as dealers waited for another signal from Wall Street. As the bad news tumbled in from all directions it was hard to find anyone who believed the worst was over.

The market tumble moved steadily through international time zones with However, leading analysts warned in- traders in New Zealand having the first opportunity to respond to events in Wall tacular rebound in technology stocks on the selves for further wild rides in stocks. "I Street. By the end of the day over 12 per would argue ... that just because the mar- cent was wiped off the value of New

saw the previous day's heavy selling topped by a further decline of more than 7 per cent. the biggest fall since the 1987 crash.

When the mighty Japanese market stirred, the authorities feared the worst and took international traders by surprise by bringing in measures to limit selling. Nevertheless the blue chip Nikkei 225 Index slumped by 4.2 per cent, taking the Japan-

The real carnage was seen in Hong Kong, however, which had earlier triggered started to look like a dangerous spiral. the Wall Street collapse. The Hang Seng its biggest one day points fall of 1,438 points, managing director of the Deutsche Morgan taking the market down by almost 14 per Grenfell Technology Group in California, cent. At one point the market dipped right said much would depend on how the mardown to 8,775 points before closing at 9,059. kets settle down. "If this is a hiccup then I Hong Kong shares have lost 30 per cent of their value this month.

In percentage terms, yesterday's performance in Hong Kong marked the third highest fall on record, coming below the Square massacre in 1989.

said Howard Georges, the vice-chairman of the South China Brokerage, "but no lightly today".

Special circumstances in Hong Kong actions have virtually ground to a halt and to how much their businesses were worth." most property analysts expect values to fall by a third or even more.

bleak despite the rally in New York.

Venture capital funds worry hi-tech bubble has burst

The storming performance of hi-tech stocks was one of the main drivers behind Wall Street's surge this year, with shares in companies like Dell Computer rising five-fold in a year. But with the route to lucrative stock market flotations now looking tougher, will US venture capital funds fight shy of backing new technology businesses? Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports.

Leading hi-tech stocks in the US have been the equivalent of financials in the FISE 100 this year with prices rising relentlessly until the last few weeks. In addition to Dell Computer's meteoric rise, shares in Compaq Computer trebled between last October and their peak last month while Microsoft rose 120 per cent and Hewlett-Packard climbed 65 per cent.

But with these stocks well-off their recent peaks there is a growing nervousness & that if the hi-teen bubble has burst, the consequences will be serious for the US venture capital funds which rely on the flotations of hi-tech companies to realise their investments.

The view from London was gloomy yesterday. Neil MacDougal of Prudential Venture Managers said: "I would have though it would affect sentiment quite severely. These funds rely on IPO's [institutional placings] on Nasdaq to get their liquidity"

Some hi-tech offerings have achieved extraordinary success in recent years and achieved wild valuations. Netscape, the computer software company, was one example. When if floated on Nasuaq two years ago it was 16-months old, rur by a 24-year-old and had never made profit. The shares, expected to start trading at \$13, hit \$50.

Running parallel to this has been a mar-ked increase in the perceived rate of return ese market to its lowest point since July for new business ventures hinted at in the most recent testimony by Alan Greenspan, the head of the US Federal Reserve. It had

But in San Francisco the outlook was Index limped into the record books with more sanguine yesterday. Joe Jusephson, don i think this chan; the market falls out of bed then it will. My view is that we've only had a bad three days. Yesterday just confirmed that gravity exists."

Mr Josephson said the quality of US 33 per cent fall which followed Black technology companies should not be under-Monday in 1987 and the almost 22 per cent estimated. "The values in the technology secfall which greeted news of the Tiananmen tor are real. It's not just puff. The AOL's. Intel's and Microsoft's are amazing com-"It was worse than people expected". panies that have created real value and the technology is changing rapidly.

"It is hard for the stock market to value one thought we were going to get away these companies that are growing so fast. Valuations in the Valley [Silicon Valley, in the Bay area of San Francisco] have been exprovided grounds for particular concern. panding rapidly. And for a while venture capwith worries mounting that the property ital companies were making a 300 per cent market would take a major tumble. Trans- return. But then the entrepreneurs got wise

Mr Josephson said the market would be buoyed by money coming in from Hong As properly underpins the local stock. Kong as "people fly to quality". However, market, the outlook for share prices remains the said the new issues market would be affeeted. "I don't think you'll see a lot of new Market report, page 25 issues in the coming weeks."

was 134 points down, and the

FTSE 100 began to fall again.

One trader, absorbed in con-

versation with friends, looked

up, saw the screens and dashed

Unexplicably, the atmosp-

here was pierced at by a spon-

taneous cheer crupting acres

the floor. The cheers were not

for a rally in the Dow, but for

the results of a sweepstake.

The winner, who had guessed

the level of the Dow at 3pm,

proudly grasped his winnings.

did not last long. At 3.05pm, the

Dow temporarily slid through the psychological 7,000 barrier,

and traders were once again

staring nervously at screens.

His eurhoric movel, though,

across to his desk.

HOW THEY SEE THE DAY'S TRADING

'We have incited trouble globally.' Kent Rossiter, Nikko Securities in Hong Kong

'The worst thing is no one knows where the bottom lies."

'This is a case where you should sell until vou can sieeo." John Mangun, IB Gimenez Securities, Manila

"I'd call this controlled frenzy." Frankfurt bourse dealer.

which is healthy Rob Reiner at BT Investment New York 'No one felt panic yesterday because Dealer in Singapore

there's so much cash around." Fund manager in London

This was a valuation correction, not a crash. If anything we'd be tentative

Vanessa James, director of UK equities at

This is not a crisis of confidence, but a reassessment of the value of some of the equities markets.'

Mike Grimble, investment strategist at Norwich Union.

'We took the view that the market was good value yesterday. The situation is different from 1987. Bob Semple, a market strategist at

deals could be under threat

The turmoil in the world's stock markets is likely to take its toll on company flotations and paper-funded deals. However the fall in the price of shares may provide a good opportunity for cash-rich corporates to launch takeover bids. Andrew Yates, Nigel Cope and Chris Godsmark report.

Volkswagen, the German car giant, became the first big casualty of the commotion in the world's markets when it was forced to postpone a DM7bn (£2.4bn) share issue.

"In the light of developments in world capital markets. the management board of Volkpone the planned capital hike. The subscription period for the new ordinary shares will not begin as planned on Thurs-VW said in a statement.

It could be the first of many Energis could be hit if market Cadbury Schweppes.

deals to bite the dust if share confidence continues to fade. prices continue to fall. Perhaps the biggest deal to be hit by the turbulence is WorldCom's \$30bn (£17.9bn) all-share offer for MCl, the US long distance telephones giant.

WorldCom's bid was based on its own share price dropping no further than \$34, but during Monday's market plunge it fell more than 8 per cent to \$31 and was falling further in afternoon trading in New York yesterday.

The plunge meant World-Com's bid had fallen close to the competing \$28bn cash offer for MCI from GTE, which has a fixed price. WorldCom last night insisted its bid remained as attractive as ever. The company hopes GTE will find it harder because of market uncertainty to raise the billions of dollars of debt needed to

finance its bid. Meanwhile in the UK, Enswagen have decided to post- ergis, the telephones group owned by National Grid, is pressing ahead with its December flotation plans despite the market plunge. However the anticipated £1bn float price for

Plunging share prices in the Far East combined with the fall in the value of local currencies also threaten to hit profits at Guinness, which is in the throes of a £24bn merger with Grand Metropolitan, and at LVMH. Bernard Arnault's French luxury goods and spirits group, which are among the

biggest spirits suppliers to the

Merchant bankers said the stock market fall would affect the prospects of flotations but might increase the level of merger and acquisition activity, particular for businesses seeking cash deals.

One said: "Those with cashrich deals in the market will be looking good. And for cash-rich companies looking for acquisitions in the UK, the fall-off in the market is helpful."

This is what happened after the 1987 crash when there was a bout of corporate activity which included Sears making its £484m bid for the Freemans mail order business and General Cinema building its stake in

Flotations and paper-funded 'When Wall St opened the doomsday scenario failed to materialise'

After the morning's dramatic falls in London, all eyes turned west to Wall Street to set the tone for the afternoon's trading. Lea Paterson gauged the City's mood from Nomura's equity trading floor.

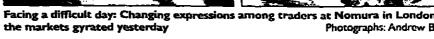
At lunch time yesterday, experts were predicting a tricky morning on the New York Stock Exchange. "From comments we have heard from New York last night and this morning, we are anticipating a weak opening," said Tim Huddart. UK equity strategist at Merrill Lynch.

On the trading floor at Nomura, the giant Japanese bank, dealers' jitters were clearly evident in the run-up to Wall Street's kick-off at 2.30pm London time. Between 2.25pm and 2.30pm, the FTSE 100 lost almost 50 points to stand 423 points down on the day, and traders sat at their screens, barely uttering a word. One placed his head in his hands: another gnawed at his fingers.









trader to another.

When Wall Street opened. the doomsday scenario pregan to cut its losses, and dealers dicted by some failed to mateat Nomura breathed a sigh of "Our boys in the States are rialise. The Dow Jones index, relief, "I would have expected



Facing a difficult day: Changing expressions among traders at Nomura in London as Photographs: Andrew Buurman

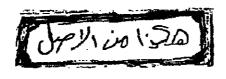
nervous," commented one far from plunging, barely moved the US to open a little weaker points down. The FTSE forthe-

than it has," admitted Sonja Gibbs, senior market strategist. Dealers' nerves were far from being calmed, though, Twenty minutes later, the Dow

But dealers were not kept on tenterhooks for long. The Dow was soon back up above 7,000, at the beginning of a quite remarkable rally, and the fall in the FTSE 100 was slashed to just 85.3 points at the close of business in London. What dealers can expect to-

day is anyone's guess, "Although we seem to have stabilised for the day, I do not necessarily think that all the selling is over," said a contions Ms Gibbs.

Markets summary appears on page 24





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OUTLOOK ON THE NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, THE BANK OF ENGLAND'S ROLE AND TROUBLES AT GLAXO

A regulatory one-stop shop means trouble

So, the Financial Services Authority it is. Hardly a name to conjure with or to set the pulse racing. At least SuperSIB gave the impression of purpose, the suggestion that it might be an organisation to get things done.

Howard Davies would argue, rightly, that the name is not the important thing, but how well it operates. Sadly, on that front too, yesterday's launch left too many unanswered questions. In scope and structure, the FSA is still a leap in the dark, open to some obvious objections and containing some very clear flaws,

Scope first. It is inexplicable that a socalled unified regulator should not consider two of the most important financial products in most people's lives - mortgages and occupational pensions - to be within its remit. It is wrong that a loan which is sold to even the most financially illiterate and worth as much as three times their salary should fall between the regulatory cracks in this way.

Likewise, occupational pensions. The creation of a mega-watchdog was surely the opportunity to put the oversight of company and personal pensions under the same roof. To claim that it made no sense to disband the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) because it had only just started doesn't make sense when perfeetly good established regulators are being absorbed in the name of unity.

Structurally, the FSA is still an accident waiting to happen. For two years new staff will join a nominally unified regulator but legally and de facto operate within the ex-

isting fractured system. "Hideously complicated" was how one senior regulator described the new regime.

Long after the industrial conglomerate was seen to have had its day, the regulatory one-stop shop is about to be born. Like the now dishanded commercial dinosaurs, it will have to cope with the lack of focus inherent in a complex matrix of conflicting chains of command and a range of widely divergent industries to regulate. By sticking to the old guard, Mr Davies has also created a potential hotbed of intrigue as the old rivalries settle into the

All of that is manageable, though even the Mekinsey trained Mr Davies admits it will be a challenge. What is much more problematic is whether the FSA can realistically he a pro-active regulator when it is so distracted by its own navel. We can only hope the next Barings scandal holds off a while.

A stepping stone for the Bank

The Bank of England Bill which emerged from the Treasury last night is a landmark in the history of monetary policy-making and banking supervision. But it is also probably just a stepping stone. If Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is as good as his word, he is going to have to move much further down the road towards full bank central bank by the end of this parliament.

He has prumised to prepare for monetary union, and under the terms of Maastricht, that means a more independent central bank than the one envisaged in this bill.

Ministers will continue to have the final say over rates in "extreme circumstances" and in practice the Chancellor continues to make all the key appointments, either directly or indirectly. The Chancellor also remains responsible for setting the inflation target which, as Kenneth Clarke has repeatedly pointed out, effectively raises the ceiling on "acceptable" inflation from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

As the Bank freely admits, the level of operational independence granted by the new bill will not be enough to qualify Britain for monetary union under the Maastricht Treaty. Reform would be necessary just to qualify for membership. On actually joining, the Treasury would have to give up its control over the inflation target to the European Central Bank, which will target other monetary indicators as well before setting rates. The "reserve powers" allowing the Treasury to set rates would also have to go. But the biggest change would be in the role of the Governor, who will no longer be classed as a "delegate" of the government and would become fully independent. His powers would be unfettered, even by the ruling Court of Bank of England itself.

So how long before we see a replacement Bank of England Bill, dealing with all this unfinished business? The Government has said it will not be making a decision on whether to join monetary

union this parliament so in theory nothing has to be done this side of the election. Given Mr Brown's commitment to get preparations underway before then, however, the new legislation could appear sooner than we think.

Personalities clash at Glaxo

Losing three senior executives in less than a decade looks like more than just carelessness. Glazo Wellcome, which yesterday announced the departure of chief executive designate Sean Lance, is hardly a troubled company. It is one of our standard bearers for Britain, is soundly financed and is growing nicely. Mr Lance was chosen carefully after 12 years at the company and groomed extensively for his new responsibilities. It is doubly strange, therefore, that Glaxo's board has decided after all this effort that he is not up to

The real problem - as ever in these situations - seems to be a clash of personality between chief executive and chairman. While this falling out has obviously been conducted with better grace, in a less open and generally more professional way than at either United Utilities or Cable & Wireless last year (Mr Lance has not run off with the chairman's secretary, as far as we know), it doesn't look good, all the same.

Most likely, the sober, quietly spoken

Mr Lance was just not able to stand up to the charismatic Sir Richard. While this was always a danger, given how emphatically Sir Richard has stamped his mark on the drug company in the last few years, Glaxo has certainly made things worse for itself by instituting an overly-complicated board structure.

By creating a chief executive alongside an executive chairman the risk was always that strategic responsibilities would blur and operational empires clash. This may just about be excusable, but it is not a good sign in a company as large as Glaxo. The company need only to look at its own recent history under its former chairman Sir Paul Girolami to see where this path leads. Sir Paul proved to be incapable of working with any chief executive. Glaxo was his baby and he was determined to hang onto the reigns of power. Not even the appointment of a non-executive deputy chairman, the well respected Sir Roger Hum of Smiths Industries, was capable of making the peace between the two sides in this latest falling out.

To restore confidence in its corporate governance procedures, the company may have to rethink its board structure. Glaxo remains by many measures a great company and it has been led in an inspired fashion by Sir Richard. But for a chairman to be incapable of working with his own chosen chief executive smacks of trouble. Boardroom rows like this may be common enough at smaller companies like Care First, but they are not meant to happen in a company as mature and big as Glaxo.

Lance snubbed for top job at Glaxo Wellcome

Sean Lance, who was being groomed as Glaxo Wellcome's next chief executive, resigned unexpectedly last night.

The news that he had been passed over for the top job on the board sparked rumours in the City that there had been a boardroom clash with Sir Richard Sykes, the drug giant's forceful chairman and chief executive. Sameena Ahmad reports.

In what appears to be a last minute change of heart, Glaxo said yesterday that it was instead appointing Robert Ingram, previously in charge of North and South America. as chief executive with immediate effect, replacing Sir Richard who remains executive chairman.

The decision, described by one fund manager as "a complete bungle," has raised concerns among institutions about Glaxo's boardroom

It comes just nine months as chief operating officer with a view to grooming him to succeed Sir Richard as chief

executive by next May. Glaxo is currently negotiating compensation with Mr Lance, who was on a two-year rolling contract earning £550,000 this

His departure is the third time that the drug giant has dismissed a top-level executive in the last 10 years.

A spokesman for Glaxo said that the board's decision not to appoint Mr Lance was unanimous and was not the result of impropriety or differences over strategy.

"Since January it has become clear that things weren't working out. Being chief executive of Glazo is a major role. Our decision was taken very seriously. We think it is far better to take it now," said the spokesman. "The board saw an outstanding candidate in Bob Ingram."

However, those close to the company suspected a personality clash, with Mr Lance unwilling to take a back seat to Sir Richard. Others suggested that Mr Lance had a lack of gravitas in presenting the public face of the company:

"Giaxo made a mistake. Sean Lance didn't cut the mustard," said one observer. Another added: "He did

after Mr Lance was appointed not make a good impression in meetings and didn't seem to have a full grasp of the com-

Others argue that South African-born Mr Lance, who joined Glaxo in 1985 to become marketing director in every region outside the Americas, was unwilling to bow to Sir Richard's strong personality.

"I don't think we'll ever know the truth," said one ana-

A leading fund manager said the news raised questions about Sir Richard's role as executive chairman and the future of Mr Ingram, also known to be a forceful personality.

it is for a chief executive to make decisions with an executive chairman around. I have a lot of faith in Sir Richard, he's an excellent manager. But there is still a serious issue of who is in control of this company.

Glaxo's previous chairman Sir Paul Girolami fell out with two chief executives, Bernard Taylor and Ernest Mario.

In turbulent markets, Glaxo's share price closed down 30p to 1180p.

In addition to his appointment as chief executive, Mr Ingram, 54, who is well known to US institutions, but relatively unknown in the UK, takes over Sir Richard's role as chairman of Glaxo Wellcome Inc, its US operations and

Chancellor christens new regulator the Financial Services Authority

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday launched the City's longawaited super-regulator and christened it the Financial Services Authority. As Andrew Verity reports, the new regulator already wants to take over the authorisation of all financial advisers and crack down on share price manipulation.

"We have seen how difficult Mr Brown said the name "Financial Services Authority" was "clear, straightforward and easy to understand, exactly the way we want to see the new regulator viewed".

He added: "The Financial Services Authority will bring more effective and more efficient supervision, giving both firms and customers more confidence in the system."

The new regulator, first announced in May, will take over responsibility for supervising banks from the Bank of England. It will also end the system of self-regulation for financial services, currently governed by more than eight bodies.

A Bank of England Bill was published yesterday to coincide with the new regulator's launch. The bill's main purpose is to give the bank independent con-



Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA, yesterday. He wants to be able to prosecute share ramping Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

trol of day-to-day setting of interest rates, But it will also hand over responsibility for banking supervision to the new regulator.

A Financial Reform Bill, designed to put the new regulator on a statutory footing, will be published early next year. The Government hopes the bill will have Royal Assent by early 1998, paving the way for a new financial services regime by the end of 1999.

Howard Davies, the regulator's chairman, said the new regime would allow better protection of consumers and would be more efficient than the current, disparate regime. In the first proposal, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) would be able to prosecute people suspected of manipulating share prices under civil law. Hitherto, it has proved impossible to crack down on share ramping, which falls short of the legal definition of insider dealing. The second proposal will give the FSA the sole

power to authorise individuals to conduct investment business.

Despite the emphasis on a single, statutory regulator", Mr Davies said there were no proposals for the FSA to regulate occupational pension schemes. He also said ministers had yet to decide whether the FSA would regulate mortgages.

L&G chairman to take over at United Utilities in March

United Utilities yesterday ended months of speculation by announcing that Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal & General, was to take over from Sir Desmond Pitcher as chairman of the multi-utility group. But as Chris Godsmark,

that taked to the

Business Correspondent, reports, big shareholders were surprised and angered that Sir Desmond would stay in the post until March.

Sir Desmond bowed to the inevitable yesterday and agreed to end his controversial reign as executive chairman of United Utilities. But he stunned some investors by managing to hold on to power until 31 March 1998, having resisted pressure from most institutions who had urged him to leave by the end of this year at the latest.

One big shareholder said: "He could have gone earlier than this and should have done so. He is just bloody-minded and had to cling on to power as long as possible."

Investors were also surprised when it emerged that Sir Desmond was expected to depart from United's Warrington headquarters with a pay-off of more than £600,000. He is on a two-year rolling contract, with a basic salary in the year to last March of £310,000.

The pay-off comes as United is "vigorously" contesting a High Court claim for damages of up to £2m from Brian Staples, its former chief executive who resigned after a high-profile boardroom rift with Sir Desmond in the summer. Mr Staples, who is also taking United to an industrial tribunal, is seeking extra compensation for bonus and share

option packages. As expected, United downgraded Sir Christopher's job to a non-executive chairmanship after criticism that company, under Sir Desmond and Mr Staples, had been controlled by two warring chief executives. Sir Christopher, a former chairman of British Nuclear Fuels and BET, the business services group taken over last year by Rentokil, will join United as deputy chairman and chairmandesignate from 1 November. Sir Christopher also resigned last night as a non-executive director of the Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity.

Both Sir Desmond and Sir Christopher could not be contacted yesterday. However, company sources claimed Sir Christopher was the first choice for the post and bad been unanimously backed by the board. But one big shareholder said there were three candidates and the outcome had not been a foregone conclusion. However, Sir Christopher

was welcomed by investors as a big hitter". Another institution said his first task should be to improve contact with shareholders. "We need a new era of openness." The news boosted United's share price, which closed up 2p at 730p.

Ofwat insists shareholders should pick up cost of leakage targets

The privatised water companies were last night facing further confrontation with the industry regulator over tough new compulsory targets to reduce leaks next year by almost 18 per cent.

Ian Byatt, the water regulator, warned that the companies could not expect to recoup the cost of leakage reduction programmes when a new five-year price control starts in 2000. Mr Byatt has previously said customers should see a big one-off cut in bills to compensate for the hefty dividend increases from the companies.

"There should be no question of them raising bills ... the cost should be picked up by shareholders," Mr Byatt said. The new targets, the first mandatory ones in the industry, would see average reductions of 17.5 per cent for the 10 privatised water and sewerage companies from April 1998. If they fail to meet the targets they could ultimately lose their op-

erating licences. Thames Water, which has the biggest leakage rates, said it would bring forward its £200m investment programme from three and a half years to

two years, to meet the 19 per cent reduction target over this year's leakage figures. Company sources indicated it may ask for the investment to be reflected in bills in the new price regime.

Hyder, the multi-utility group which owns Welsh Water, said Mr Byatt's comments were "nonsense". Nigel Annett, head of strategy, said extra environmental gains from leakage cuts which were not paid for out of savings in water resources should feed through to bills.

The group also attacked the comparison tables of leakage rates by Ofwat, the water watchdog, which looked at leakage per household. Mr Byatt said he was very concerned" about Welsh Water's leakage rate, which was second only to Thames'.

Mr Annett said he was "very unhappy" with the comparisons, which did not take into account the longer length of Welsh Water's pipes in rural arcas. "This a daft way of measuring leakage," he added. But Mr Byatt insisted the new targets, which follow the Government's water summit after the election, were realistic.

- Chris Godsmark



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

FOITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Bellway builds on housing recovery

Bellway, the Newcastle-based housebuilder, exceeded all market expectations with a 56 per cent leap in profits to £50.3m in the year to July. But against the black background of the stock market slump, investors were rewarded by a 5.5p fall in Bellway's share price to

The second-half improvement included an exceptional profit of £1.4m on the sale of Wainhomes. Without it, pretax profits rose 52 per cent, exceeding the 45 per cent improvement at the halfway stage.

Turnover rose by more than 30 per cent to £398m but margins increased from 11.5 per cent to 12.8 per cent and unit sales rose by 18 per cent to 5,002 homes at an average price of £77,200, itself an increase of 9 per cent.

The decision three years ago to shift the balance of the business towards London and the South-east has paid off handsomely.

The acting chairman, Howard Dawe, who took over after the death of the chairman, Kenneth Bell, says there are signs that the recovery in the housing market in the South-east is levelling out but the improvement is now spreading to other parts of the country and the group's national coverage leaves it well placed to benefit.

Over the last year Bellway's land-bank increased from 13,000 to 14,000 plots with planning permission and the group has since signed a joint-venture agreement with Sheffield City Council for the redevelopment of an area with around 1,000 more homes.

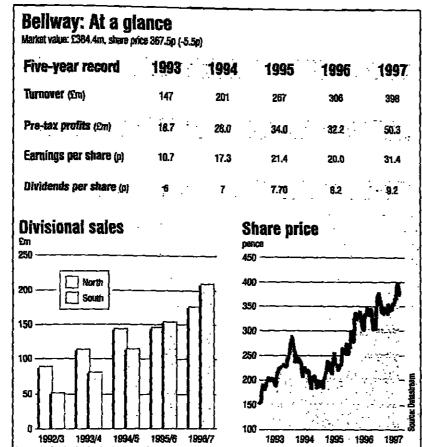
Bellway had £9.5m in the bank at the end of July, helped by the £15m placing last November. Apart from the ritual complaint about delays in getting planning permission, the outlook for the sector still seems bright, with homes and mortgages still affordable.

Analysts yesterday pushed their forecasts for the current year up from £50m to £55m and earnings of 35p a share, with £64m profits pencilled in for 1999. They now stand only 20 per cent above the January low point and 10.5 times prospective earnings for the current year. Buy as soon as the dust settles.

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MY warns of fall in demand

Making plastic strawberry punnets and corrugated board wrapping for computers sounds like a tough business on which to turn a decent margin. But MY Holdings, the specialist packaging group, has consistently produced impressive results by cornering niche sectors. Until yesterday, that is, when the group warned that reduced customer demand and extra investment costs would constrain profit growth this year. In plunging markets, MY's share

price spiralled down 5p to 82.5p. The problem is industrial packaging, which represents around a third of MY's total sales. Though only a small part of MY's industrial division is real low-end commodity packaging, the sort of corrugated wrapping that goes around TVs, MY ting as rivals like Rexam and Smurfit have a rating of 11 times. Fair for now.

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battled to retain customers who are being squeezed by the strong pound. Rather than cut prices to the bone, MY has let customers go, leaving sales in the division down from £32m to £28m in the year to August with profits at £1.9m (£2.7m).

MY's food and consumer arm, a highermargin business, also suffered from pricing pressure plus the wet summer, but sales at least grew, up to £37m from £34m. Healthcare packaging is the big hope.

Profits in the year rose from £4.5m to £6m on sales at £22.4m (£21m). MY has relocated and upgraded two factories, pushing up costs. MY still looks strong on fundamentals. The company has good cash flow, some £7m of cash and its largest shareholder, the South African group Malbak, is gradually reducing its shareholding, improving liquidity. However, given unkind markets, investors should hold off. House broker Albert E Sharp has downgraded full-year profit forecasts has been affected by aggressive price cut-from £15.5m to £14.4m. This puts MY on

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Liberty family criticises board for backing Cassidy

The board of Liberty, the upmarket Regent Street retailer, yesterday rejected calls from the Stewart-Liberty family to oust the chairman, Denis Cassidy. The issue will now be settled at an emergency meeting where the family's large shareholding, combined with that of rebel investor, Bryan Myerson, is likely to ensure Mr Cassidy's defeat. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

The Liberty board said it "unanimously rejected" the proposal to remove Mr Cassidy from his position. The board also rejected proposals to appoint Odile Griffith, the Stewart-Liberty family's financial adviser, and Mr Myerson as directors. The board said the proposals were not in the best interests of the company, adding that it would write to shareholders in due course setting out its position in more detail.

lowed a board meeting late on Monday evening which considered the proposals of the family. With the family and Mr Myerson holding 44 per cent of Liberty shares between them, Mr Cassidy's defeat appears a foregone conclusion. In addition to these holdings, the extended Liberty family accounts for a further 17 per cent of the stock, though their stance on an increasingly messy affair is not yet known.

Representatives of the Stewart-Liberty family yesterday criticised the board for wasting shareholders money in fighting what it described as a lost cause. They said the cost of advisers' fees, the preparation of circulars and the staging of the EGM would cost around £500,000. "It seems a fantastic waste of shareholders' money," a spokesman said.

The spat between Mr Cassidy and the Stewart-Liberty family moved to an industrial tribunal hearing yesterday. Richard Stewart-Liberty, a descendent of the stores' original founders, is suing the company for wrongful dismissal. He was in charge of branded products at the company but left shortly after Mr Cassidy was appointed

The rejection of the proposals folpensation he can be awarded is £25,000. A verdict is expected tomorrow.

Some Liberty insiders questioned yesterday why the Stewart-Liberty family is acting in concert with Mr Myerson, the rebel South African investor. The family clashed with Mr Myerson several years ago over his plans to moderaise the company.

Some within Liberty feel Mr Myerson's agenda may be very different from the family's and could include a sale of the group which would wrench the Liberty business from the family after 120 years. Another possibility is that Mr Myerson would favour a sale and leaseback of the valuable mock-fudor building on London's Regent Street. Mr Myerson holds his share in Liberty in a private capacity. But his UK Active Value Fund has participated in several longrunning battles with incumbent boards including Aquascutum, Scholl and Signet, the former Ramers jewellery business. In the case of Aquascutum and Signet he was in favour of a sale of all or parts of the business.

Liberty shares, which stood at 420p a year ago, closed unchanged at 3275p

Community Hospitals in talks on acquisition

Community Hospitals has agreed to acquire a 20.9 per cent stake in IBH from Bupa for £5.6m. Community Hospitals said it is in discussions with the board of IBH which may or may not lead to an offer for the entire company. IBH's principal activity is the ownership and operation of acute medical and surgical hospital facilities. In the year to September 1996, IBH reported turnover of £37.8m and profit on ordinary activities before tax of £1m.

Airtours opens in Poland

Airtours, one of the UK's largest tour operators, said its Scandinavian division, SLG, will start tour operations in Poland next year. It said the Polish operation will be marketed under the direct sell brand Ving, with holidays for next summer on sale from January 1998. Ving Poland will operate from Warsaw and launch its charter programme from there to SLG's existing holiday destinations which include Majorca, the Canary Islands, Greece and Turkey. "There is huge potential for outbound charter tours from eastern European countries," said SLG's chairman, Christer Sandahl.

Sterling hinders engineers

The latest survey by the Engineering Employers' Federation showed mounting problems caused by the strength of sterling. Domestic orders rose slightly but growth has stabilised and export orders fell for the third successive quarter. Capital investment plans are marginally down.

Branson float goes ahead

Plans for listing Virgin Express, Richard Branson's low fares airline, in Brussels and New York will go ahead in spite of the turmoil on world markets a spokesman said yesterday. Virgin is offering 2.14 million new shares, plus a reserve of 321,000 in the events of over-subscription. The shares will be priced in the second week of November and the issue will raise between \$90m and \$105m (£54m to £63m). After the float Virgin travel will hold 53.4 per cent of the company. the employees 2 per cent and the public 44.6 per cent.

Gearbox deals signed

Antonov, the automatic gearbox maker, said it signed agreements with four car manufacturers, Daewoo, Hyundai, Kia and Mahindra. The combined production in 1996 of these four manufacturers was over 2.5 million vehicles. Prototypes are expected to be available to the four manufacturers for evaluation in the first half of 1998.

HIT looking to expand

HIT Entertainment, the cartoon distributor which came to the main market in August, is on the look out for acquisitions in the licensing and merchandising sector. The company, which owns the rights to cartoons such as Percy the Park Keeper and Brambly Hedge, is hoping to expand into licensing and merchandising within six months. HIT made profit before tax of £570,000 between January and July this year, compared to £79,000 between January and June last

Friendly buys 13 hotels

Priendly Hotels has agreed terms with US group Choice Hotel International to acquire a portfolio of 13 French, German and UK hotels for £16.1m. An initial £13.6m will be paid by issuing new unlisted convertible preferred shares in Friendly. Following the acquisition, Friendly will own, manage and franchise more than 240 hotels in Europe in 10 countries.

High hopes at refitter

Campbell & Armstrong the specialist in refitting and refurbishing commercial premises, has high hopes for business in 1988, on the back of its contract to install in-store financial centres for Tesco supermarkets. But turnover in the six months to the end of July was down 4 per cent to £12.44m and losses were only halved to £880,000 in spite of a cost reduction programme saving an estimated £1m a year and an improved performance from the lighting and display division.

	Turnover L	Pre-tax (EPS	Dividen
Beltway (F)	398m (306m)	50.3m (32.2m)	31.4p (20.8p)	9.2p (8.2p)
Fairbriar Group (I)	2.24m (2.07m)	0.35m (1.42m)	0.01p (3.71p)	nit (-)
GR Holdlogs (F)	4.76m (4.30m)	0.35m (0.25m)	0.6p (1.3p)	· (·)
HIT Entertalament (1)	5.59m (11.0m)	0.57m (0.08m)	3.17p (0.47p)	0.5p (-)
MY Holdings (†)	92.2m (86.8m)	14.3m (12.5m)	7. 73p (6.57p)	2 7p (2 4p)
\$0C0 (ribd (f)	1.09m (-j	0 33m (-)	0.5p (-)	- (-)
Toye & Co (I)	5.30m (4.92m)	nii (nii)		

Zeneca sales weakened by strength of sterling

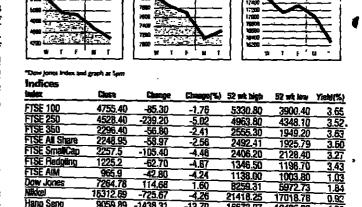
Zeneca, the drugs to agrochemicals giant, has become the latest company to be hit by the continued strength of sterling. Sales for the nine months to September fell 5 per cent to £3.95bn as the strengthening pound masked gains in volumes sold, particularly in pharmacenticals. However, in constant currency and excluding disposals, Zeneca said that revenue had risen 10 per cent.

In a bland trading statement, Zeneca said that sales in the group's core pharmaceutical group rose 14 per cent to £1.8bn excluding currency effects, with sales of products launched in the last two years growing strongly and accounting for 19 per cent of sales. The company said that annual sales growth would be "at least in line with current performance".

Sales at Salick, Zeneca's cancer clinic chain in the US, rose by 19 per cent to £82m, however, there was no breakdown of profits at the division. which has seen falling returns.

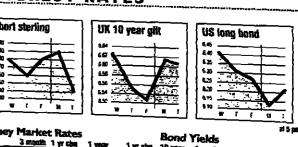
Agrochemical revenues rose an underlying 7 per cent to £1.4bn, with strong growth in Latin America offset by declines in Asia due to the volatile economic conditions and poor weather. The company said this could leave growth for the year slightly lower than current performance.

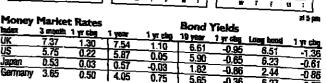
Zeneca's other speciality chemicals division showed reasonable growth, with underlying sales 6 per cent ahead to £802m driven by strong growth in spccialist colours and life science molecules. Shares in the company ended 26p down at £18.88. - Sameena Ahmad



Dow Jones

INTEREST RATES

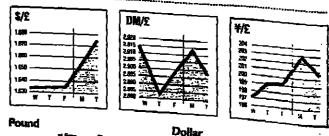


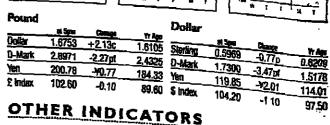


MAIN PRICE CHANGES

				***************	*****		
Rises	Price (g)		% Dige	Falls	Date de		•
Rentoldi Initial	244.75	9.75	445		Price (a)	(a) (a)	% Chen *
Lloyds TSB	735.00	23.50		Schroders	1340.0D	-215 nn	-13.83
RMC Group	940.DD	30.00	3.30	Telewest	<u>69.0</u> 0	10.50	-13.21
Rank Group	342.00	10.50		Cap Radio	451.50	-66.00	-1275
			4.17	Coats Viyella	107		-11.20

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Silver (\$)	4.83	0.00	4.00	Base Rates 7 00 153.76	
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				Source: Bloom	East.

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Order-driven system adds to confusion on roller-coaster day

MARKET REPORT



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DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

One of the wildest days an lowing the introduction of shares still quote traded, were market. With shares on a faced it planned an overseas increasingly volatile stock order-driven trading. market has experienced saw Footsie plunge the depths

close just 85.3 off at 4,755.4. New York pulled the strings. Its overnight fall procapture lost ground,

rests at its lowest for nearly the market opened? four months. At one time, with Footsie suffering its worst-ever points fall and biggest percentage decline nature of the new system. At since the crash, there were one time the shares were up fears shares were in free fall 36.5p as deals, one on the orand this year's stunning gains der book, were executed at would be wiped out.

about the changes in the way down 3.75p. the index is calculated fol-

Some traders maintained the fall would have been even with a 457.9 points full, yet greater under the quote-driven system; even so a 100p spread in Imperial Chemical Industries and often 50p-plus in duced chaotic conditions in the other blue chips created first hour. Then a firm display consternation. So, with Footsie during London's afternoon calculated on the last orderhad the market scurrying to re- driven trade, just how accurate was the red baze which The blue-chip index now clouded screens soon after

In a perverse way Rolls-Royce, a Footsie constituent, illustrated the accident-prone 255p, hopelessly out of line arm before the market rallied". Footsie's frenzied perfor- with the 210p or so then ruling. mance created new doubts. The price ended at 214,75p.

makers. They were marked coaster the professionals were tions it wants to sell its South down dramatically, even if able to duck and dive and American operations and it there was not a seller in sight, as the traditional defensive manoeuvres were undertaken.

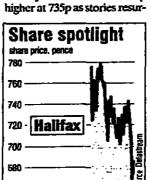
index ended 239.2 off at 4,528.4 and the FTSE SmallCaps index edly firm New York opening. lost 105.4 to 2,257.5.

Even when it appeared shares could be in free fall there was little, if any, panic selling. One private client stockbroker said he had encountered only a few sell orders. "Mostly, my clients scemed more interested in identifying the hargains which have been thrown up; unfortunately few chanced their But many small share-

holders did dive in with 92,695 bargins recorded. It was certainly a traders'

savagely mauled by market- dizzy, unpredictable roller- sale. There have been suggescould have enjoyed a profitable session.

Financials were prominent The FTSE 250 MidCaps as blue chips cut their losses on the back of the unexpect-Lloyds TSB ended 23.5p



was said talks had opened with a possible US buyer. National Westminster

Bank was another caught in the rumour mill. Tales abounded its securities arm would be sold next week with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and an American group said to be the front-runners. The feeling is NatWest will retain a minority stake. The shares ended 20p lower at 920p on worries the bank may have suffered derivative losses in the maybem. Barclays, down 36p at 1,500p, was an-

other casualty. Halifax has been one of the hardest hit. The building society-cum-bank has slumped from a 778p high as former members have become increasingly worried, produc-

ing a snowball effect. At one time off 57p they closed up 18p at 685p, still 47.5p below the auction price. Woolwich, at one

off 4p at 293p.
The metals slump continued to erode Rio Tinto, off 60p at 740p. And, despite the late rally, the market ended with some sharp falls with Schroders off 155p to 1,625p; British Aerospace 125p at

1,495p and ICI 57.5p to 865p.

If New York remains strong

time 12p higher at 309p, ended

such declines should be oneday wonders. Newcomer Weather Action, the creation of highprofile forecaster Piers Corbyn, failed to predict the market climate; it could not have picked a worse day for its début. Even so it shrugged off the storms - thankfully there

were no hurricanes - to close

TAKING STOCK Azlan, the troubled computer

group suspended at 555p in June, closed at 69.5p. The nilpaid rescue rights, being sold at 37p, ended at 31p. The trading halt was called when the group warned of accounting problems. Senti-

ment was hit earlier when a

£48.5m rights issue flopped

with only 1 per cent of the

shares on offer taken up.

Freepages, the upstart directory rival to Yellow Pages, has attracted the attention of VNU, the Dutch publishing giant. It has acquired 22 million shares providing a 4.47 per cent stake. The shares closed 1.5p

Zetters, the bingo and pools group, was untouched by the share slide, firming to 123p. There is talk the signalled corporate action - a bid or assets injection - is near.

lower at 36p.

			about the chan the index is c	iges in the way calculated fol-	down 3.75p. However,	supporting	bargins recorded. It was certainly a traders'	660 ONDJFMAMJJASO	members have become in- creasingly worried, produc-	were no hurricanes – to close at 88.5p against a 75p issue.	corporate action — a bid or assets injection — is near.
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Aussies have their own Royal party

Arabian Story and Harbour Dues, England's challengers in the Melbourne Cup next Tuesday, completed their 14-day quarantine in Australia yesterday. They emerged to great infection, reports Richard Edmondson

It does not take much to make the indigenous brethren of Australia organise a party; they would throw a prawn on the barbie to celebrate the opening of an envelope. But Cup week is something else, and the Victorians have gone particularly koalas over the 137th running of the Melbourne Cup as aristocrats (and better) are involved from the mother

country. Arabian Story and Harbour Dues are trained by Lord Huntingdon and Lady Herries respectively and the former is owned by a woman most of us know as The Queen. As the about the pleasures of his

RESULTS

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1.40: 1. IRSAL (A P McCoy) 1-2 tav. 2.
Southern Chief 5-1, 3. Prairie Minstrel
7-1 7 ran. 3/k, 7. (M Pipe). Tota: \$160; \$120.
\$530. Oual Forecast: \$1320. Computer
Straight Forecast: \$107.
2.15: 1. NISHAMIRA (R Thornton) 11-8
tav; 2. Skram 13-2; 3. Noble Colours 9-2.
1270. DF: \$550. CSF: \$959.
2.70. DF: \$550. CSF: \$959.

12.70. DF: £5.60. CSF: £9.59. 2.50: 1. STANMORE (G Bradley) 2-1 lav; 2. Felico 14-1; 3. Fed On Oats 9-2.6 ran. shrind, 12. (C Brooks) Totas £2.70; £190; £410 DF: £2.52. CSF: £2.268. S.25: 1. CIRCUS STAR (A Maguire) 1-5

tav; 2. I Recall 33-1; 3. Calvaro 14-1 9 ran, 11/4, nk. (D Nicholson), Tote: £120; £10, £400, £290. Dual Forecast: £780. CSF: £539. Trio: 21570. 4.00: 1. JAMES PIGG (Mr G Elicit) 5-1;

2. Paper Star 16-1: 3. Dromhana 7-4 tay. 6 ran. 19, 7 (M Pipel, Tote: 5:30; 52:10, 52:80. DF: 52060. CSF: 525648. 4:30: 1. ARICTIC TRIUMPH (G Bradley) 7-4 tay. 2, Chris's Lad 11-4; 3, Ethe Governor 10-1, 8 ran. 3, 2 (M Bradstock) Tote: 5280; 5130, 5130, 5140. DF: 5360. CSF. 5588

Placepot: £126.20. Quadpot: £63.30. Place 6: £41.37. Place 5: £29.56

LEICESTER 1.00: 1. BAFFIN BAY (K Fallon) 5-1; 2. Banker Dwerry 33-1; 3. Mulahen 11-10 fay. 13 ran. /k, 2. (H Cecil, Newmarker). Tota: 08:00, 51:70, 58:00, 51:10, DF: 579:60, CSF: £14957. Tino: £2370. Rudi Knight (33-1) was

5'4957. Inc: 123.70 Rudi Knight (33-1) was athdrawn not under orders; Rule 4 does a poply.

1.30: 1. HIMSELF (K Fation) 7-2; 2. Speaker's Chair 9-4 Ji tey; 3. Brave Noble 33-1, 14 ran. 9-4, If av Stran, 3, 1/5. (H Cecil, Newmarket) Tote: 13.80; 12.00. £1.80, 5990. Dual Forecast: £11.70. CSF: £12.51. Trio: 120.00.

2.00: 1,:BLOWING AWAY (D Biggs) 11-1; 2. Saratogs Red 5-2 fav; 3. Rochea 25-1. 19 ran. ¼, 3. (M Tompkina, Newmarks).

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Great Dane (Yarmouth 3.05) NB: Be Warned (Yarmouth 4.10)

Tate: £10.90; £3.10, £1.80, £5.10, DF: £42.70 CSF: £36.61, Trio: £346.10 (pert won, pool of £292.54 carried forward to Yarmouth 410 (£29254 carried un hopperetta, xlay). Non Puriner: Hopperetta, 2.30; 1. BANDBOX (M Wignam) 6-1; 2. Redevilled 7-2 fav. 230: 7. BANDBOX IN WYTERIN 6-1, 2. Double Brendy 6-1; 3. Bedevilled 7-2 fax. 21 ran. ½, 1½, (S Mellor, Swindon). Tota: 5780; 52:20, 52:30, 52:80, DF: \$1550. CSF: \$44.4, This \$1080.

3.00: 1. CALENDULA (G Carter) 6-1: 2.

Rock The Barney 12-1; 3. In The Genes 25-1; 4. Suga Hawk 12-1, 19 ran, 100-30 fav North Reet, nt, 2. (D Morley, Newmar-ket, Tote; 55.30; 52:20, 53:50 54:50, 53:20 DF: 552:40 CSF; E59:22, Titoast; £1599; 78. Titos 527:50

Trio: 5372.60.
3.35: 1. NICHOL FIFTY (D Biggs) 4-1:
2. Tarriden 11-10 fax; 3. Tol Tol 6-1.5 ran. 11/s, 1/s. (M. Tompkins, Newmarket). Tote: 26.00; 2190, 2110. Dual Forecast: \$4.20. CSF;

4.10: 1. LIONIZE (R Has) 33-1; 2. Howalda 5-1; 3. Midnight Watch 5-1 1 ran. 9-4 fav Literary (6th) 1 /4, /4. (Mrs J Ce ci, Newmarket). Tota: £33.20; £8.10, £33.0 DF: £339.20, CSF: £205.49. Thicast £966.2. Trio: £46990 (part won, pool of a32.37 to Yarmouth 410 today).

eactpot: £8,91440 (part won, pool of £1,300.3 carried forward. Placepot: £8,20. Quadpot: £17,40. Place 6: £7466. Place 5: £5103.

REDCAR 1.05: 1. MARY JANE (P Fessey) 7-1; 2. Quits Happy 20-1; 3. Quiz Master 6-1.16 rar. 9-2 fav Cool Prospect 14, 11/5. LJ Berry. Cockeshant). Toke: S800; E240, E720, E330 DF: £183.20, CSF: £188.42. Trio: £153.50. NRs:

Barrebio, Mac's Type. 1,35; 1. BLUNDELL LANE (A McGlone) 7-1; 2. Rich Choice 7-1; 3. Premium Princess 8-1; 4. One To Go 20-1 16 ran.

Princess 8-1; 4. One To Go 20-1. 16 ran. 13-2. Ji laws Arberig (Sh) & After Eight. 2. Mt (A. Janvas, Dictor) Gibte. 27:30; £10, £200. £170, £470. £170. £480. £185. £190. £170. £470. £180. £180. £180. £190. £170. £180

C178856, Trip: £129760, Scaraber not apply. 3,10: 1. DERNIER CROISE (M Tebbut)

CSF: \$4,93.
2.45: 1, TALLULAH BELLE (J Westwer)
6-4 fav; 2, Classic Find 6-1; 3, Westwinkster 6-1, 8 ran., ½, 6, (N Littmoden, Wolverhampton), Tota: 52.40; \$10, \$2.20, \$2.40, \$57.50, \$68: \$20.57,
4.15: 1, \$4,017 EXPRESS (A Culture)
14-1; 2, Johanno 20-1; 3, Tiller 5-2, 15 ran.

14-1; 2. Johnnyro 20-1; 3. Tiler 5-2. 15 ran. 9-4 fav Poyal Result (5th). /s. /s. (Mrs M Rev-eley, Saltburn). Tote: £22.40; £5.00, £8.60, £4.90. DF; £58.10. CSF; £286.83. Tifcast 2209149. Trio: £52.90.



street parties and picnics are arranged around the showers of an Australian spring for the next week or so, the names of the noble visitors will be invoked. And they will want to see them off. They may be high-class Poms, but they are still Poms,

Updates on the Cup Carnival have consequently moved to the front of Antipodean newspapers, much of the enthusiasm the promotion of Les Benton, the general manager of the Victoria Racing Club, When it comes to banging a gong, Sir Les is in the Rank movie class.

Trumpeting the "race that stops the nation" is virtually a 12-month assignment, a segment of which Les spends in Europe, Like Burke and Wills in reverse (although Les at least manages to survive his journeys), Benton travels hetween Australia and western Europe in an effort to seek out the natives and educate them

Heritage, a heavily backed

favourite for the November

Handicap, was sold yesterday

The colt, trained by John

Gosden to win two races this

season, came under the ham-

mer at the Tattersalls Sales in

CHELTENHAM

1.10 Samuel Wilderspin

1.40 Chief's Song

2.50 Edgemoor Prince

2.15 Daraydan

and will miss the race.

homeland. If you listen to his strong this year as it has been. There have been 1,056 atletter from Melhourne you can imagine there are still plenty of nuggets lying around the place from the mid-19th century gold

Benton thinks The Queen having a runner in the sacred race by the banks of the Maribymong river is of some interest. "This is probably one of the biggest racing stories in Australian history," he said yester-

"The Melbourne Cup has become internationally recognised and you cannot get more prestigious than The Queen having a runner. There have been stories, photographs and an incredible build-up, and the rest of this week is going to be еполноия.

"Both Arabian Story and Harbour Dues have done exceptionally well since arriving in Australia. They look fantastic and they've really done well. I don't believe the field is as been climbed 256 times since. Palace himself.

Punters must pay the price for sale of Heritage

Newmarket and fetched

He was bought for an undis-

closed Irish owner and will be

joining an Irish trainer for a

jumping campaign. The new

connections hope the winner of

120,000 guineas,

3.25 Lady Rebecca

4.30 Ahraydoubleyou

4.00 Potter's Bay

HYPERION

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Left-hand, galloping course with stiff tences. Lightli rum-in of 240yd.

Course is im north of fown off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham rail station (served by Bristol, Brimingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls combined £12 (Juniors, 16-24) years, 59; Courage Enclosure £5. CAR PARIK; Free.

LEADING TRAINERS (5-YEAR RECORD): M Pipe — 28 winners from 223 runners gives a success rapo of 12.8%, D Nicholson 34-758 (52.5%), N Twiston-Device 22-200 (11%), J GMTord 16-107 (15.8%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody — 31 winners, 173 indes, 173%, N Williamson 27-11 (24.3%), A P McCoy 21-89 (23.5%) A Maguine 20-136 (14.5%).

FAVOURITIES: 183-472 (38.8%).

BUNKERED FRST TIME: None.

1.10 CHELTENHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICE HURDLE

BETTING: 4-5 Samuel Wilderspin, 9-2 Blowing Rock, 11-2 Damier's Choice, 8-1 Doice Notic. Mists

FORM GUIDE

SAMUEL WILDERSPIN, who missed his intended hunding bow at Huntingdon a week ago, is a most interesting prospect. Successful on the first of three NH Fist runs last term, at Warwick, he was seventh of 25 behind Florida Peart in the Cheltentham burnger, winding up with a sixth of 20 to Kings Measure at Ayr on Scottish National day. David Nichola sook numer's out of a helissister of Kinbensis and has the same site as the 1990 Champion.

son's numer is out of a half-sister to Kirbeness and has the same site as the 1990 Champlon Hurdle victor in Heinbit. He is clearly one to follow at this game. Dolice Notite, who showed little in low starts last season, being pulled up in two of them, came home by a distance from Pots Cruser at Teurition on her return but the form amounts to little with General Glow, the hot textouritie, departing at the fifth. A better lonecast bet should be Blowling Rock, who finished runner-up twice from his last three races lest season, behind Colonel Blazer at Eveter in April and Song Of The Sword at Hereford the following month. Herefett Knight's Strong Gate gelding was bought to go chasing but he could find a hurdle race or two belone he eventually tackles the bigger obstacles. Damiter's Choice has shown ability and should also go well.

added 2m Penalty Value £3,760

1896; Celibate 5 19 11 A P McCoy evene it fav (C Mann) 4 ran

LLOYDS BOWMAKER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500

BETTING: 6-5 Mandys Mantino, 7-4 Chief's Song, 4-1 Herbert Lodge, 12-1 Rovester, 33-1 Hogb

MANDYS MANTINO, attrough he has always looked the type to do well over fences, was rather disappointing when switched to chasing last term after two wins and a second over hurdies. Third (of four finishers) to Land After and Mister Drum at Kempton on his fencing low in January, Josh Gifford's charge was begind a couple of lengths by Frazer Island when 5-2 on at Huntingdon on his only other chase and reverted to hurdies for

number is out of a helf-sister to Kribensis and has the same sire as the 1990 Chambio

ical Reform, 33-1 others

(CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,918

in previous years and if the trip hasn't taken too much out of the English horses - and it doesn't appear to have - I give them a very good chance."

Many have had chances before, but the only animal to convert his from the northern hemisphere was Vintage Crop in 1993. Others have tried every year since (mainly through Benton's trawling of possible runners), but nothing has been close to success.

"People said to me in 1993 that this would never work with the Europeans, but the mountain has been climbed once and I'm hoping it will be done so again," he said. "There's no reason at all for thinking Vintage Crop is going to be unique, that he's going to be the only overseas raider to win the race.

"Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Everest in 1953 and it's

capable of tackling prestige

events such as the Triumph

Irish bloodstock agent Bob-

by O'Ryan, who handled the

deal, said: "We're delighted to

Hurdle at Cheltenham.

the King George V Handicap get the horse, but he was

at Royal Ascot in June will be bought to go jumping and won't

his final outing - running well to finish a seven-length 10th of a huge field behind Big Strand under 11st 8th the Coral Cup at the Festival. Mandys Manton etil has plenty of time to make the grade at this game and, in recept of 6th, can master main rivial Childr's Song Smon Dow's runner, a fair handloop hurdler on he day, made a winning start as a cheser when numing on strongly to defeat Lake Karbs and fennessee King at Kempson. Chief's Song should have no problems with the extra five furiongs and is Bielly to have a fitness advant toge over Mandys Mantino but Gifford's seven-year-old was the better hurdler and the 6th he gets may prove decisive in the final battle up the hill Herbert Lodge unseated his nider early when making his chasing debut last season, but had a confidence restorer over timber on his final start and, after a second behind Ashwell Boy at Strafford on his return, went one better at Hurningdon, bearing Moobaldin a couple of lengths. This is tougher, however.

2.15 TIM EMANUEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,697

FORM GUIDE

Daraydan scored three times last season and ran a binder when third behind Istabraq and Mighty Moss in the Royal SunAliance Hurdle at the Festival, beaten only a length and three-quarters of a length. The Ketyasi getting, who finished third to Canon Can, beaten 27 lengths, in the Queen Alexandra at Royal Ascot and had a run in the Boor in August, will not lack for fitness but the two stone concession to PLEASURELAND may prove beyond his powers. Pleasureland won at Windsor (2m 4f) and at Towcester (3m) last season and ran a fine race when second to Trangitot in a three-miler at Ascot, leading three flights but but not leating home as well as the winner - a past Cesarewitch winner. Sharp Command, who followed a Sedgefield success on his reappearance last morthly with a second behind Flying Fiddler at Kempton, should not be far away but Wee Winds is better known as a chaser. Wee Windy, offer several placed efforts in cheese, finally won over today's trip here in April but was talled off and pulled up two out against Juliana at Ascot two weeks later on his final appearance.

Selection: PLEASURELAND

2.50 JEWSON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,500 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,701

PORM GUIDE

EDGEMOOR PRINCE, who won over hurdles at Exeter (twice) and Warwick last season, turning in a particularly game effort at the latter track, has taken kindly to chasing and can supplement his winning Uttoweter fencing bow. Philip Hobbs charge beat Little Tincture only half a length but had a great deal in franciand it will come as a surprise if

3.25 ROSEHILL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,710

BETTING: 11-8 Lombardic, 15-8 Lady Rebacca, 8-1 Ardent Scout, 10-1 Beacon Lane, Rubon Prince,

Partner, who was operated on for a wind infirmity in the sum-well on his return. Selection: EDGEMOOR PRINCE

BETTING: 13-8 Etigemoor Prince, 3-1 Ideal Partner, 4-1 Little Tincture, 9-2 Sout

? Coming Alive. 6: Mony-Skip 7 11 12 R Guest 4-7 fav (Mrs S Smith) 5 ran

16-1 Mormania. 1998: Centon Venture 4 10 13 A Magaine 1-6 fea (S Woods) 3 ran

.......T J MarphyL Aspell (3) BD O'Station

Handicap."

Saturday.

tempts and 112 fatalities, but I don't suppose I should talk about them." The cruel and dismissive

rubbish the Melbourne Cup as a long-distance handicap for slow horses, but then much the same description could be applied about the most popular race in the British Isles. The big one at Flemington, just like the Grand National shows just what you can achieve with thorough exposure as much as the actual event itself.

All the VRC need now is the big names to turn up on the day. Frankie Dettori, Arabian Story's partner, has already been snapped up for six rides on Cup afternoon, but there have been no hookings for a private Royal party in the restaurant.

"Nobody's been in touch, mate," Benton said. If the situation remains thus he'll probably be on to Buckingham

be running in the November

favourite with the Tote for the

last major race of the Flat

campaign at Doncaster a week

Heritage was the 7-1

FORM GUIDE

4.00 STUDD CHALLENGE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS C) 25,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value 54,372

1996: Wase Approach 9 12 D C O'Dwyer 7-4 fav IX Salley) 5 fan

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Tim Forster won the Grand National with Ben Nevis and the big race is also the intended target of another Maryland Hurs Cup winner, Buck Jailone, whose record in America stamps him as a consistent and versable type, in a recent interview, however, Forster said he had not done enough with Buck Jailone to good he is, and POTTER'S BAY looks a safer option today. Although Potter's Bay won his first three novice chases last season, he put up probably his best effort in defeat - failing by a neck to give Mine Captain 19th in a navices' handicap on last ground here. With the yard in good form, Potter's Bay could be difficult to beat despate the 12 stone, although Classic Contact, who overcame a long lay-off to beat Tighter Budget at Hadham, could make life difficult getting 28th. The novice Glamanglitz is also fit and getting plantly of weight but he must bounce back after finishing last of five behind King Of Shadowe at Kempton and just as flesty to make a face of it is Kentmore-Speed. Not surprisingly, considering he missed the 1895/96

4.30 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' NH FLAT (CLASS H) £2,000 added2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,758

= 14 December - 14 December -

Philip Hobbs won less year's race with Tidal Force and should not be far away with Jaquilas Glen, although he was ridden by Richard Dunwoody when beeing a big field, including Dunwaven Lady, at Bangoc AHRAYDOUBLEYOU should be thereabouts, too, after running the favourite, Luggsy, to half a length at Worcester. Sue Smith and Richard Wildhard who son won the NH Fist race at Carliste on Saturday with Sotattle. Their fitness might give them the edge over Dragon King, although he can be expected to win a race of this sort, having finished numer-up to Gattlex at Accot in March. Martin Pipe's Miss Equal each upon the NH Fist more at Tarvert 21 days are not ent to changes are that Intel Banker.

Frankie Dettori in the saddle on Arabian Story

LOMBARDIC can make his expension tell against Lady Rebecca, who was undefeated after three bumpers in 1996-97 and makes her jumping debut here. The selection easity landed odds of 7-2 at Exeter three weeks ago, a victory semitiched between seconds to More Then You Know and Faiver Challenga. Arderd Scout finished a neck behind Rubor Prince when they were fourth and fifth to Westfield Mass on their debut in a bumper at Hednam tast month but had this rival a long way behind when a fair third of 17 to Estate Agent at Cartisle and should go well on his hurdling debut.

Selection: LOMBARDIC

make a race of it is Kemmore-Speed. Not surprisingly, considering he missed the 1995/96 campaign, Kemmore-Speed took time to come right last season, but when he did he won five times and the chances are he will hit form earlier this term.

FORM GUIDE

ily won the NH Flat race at Taunton 12 days ago and the chances are that Irish Banker, will know his job. Like Irish Banker, Flying On is out of a mare that has produced several winners and he is another newcomer to consider.

Selection: AHRAYDOUSLEYOU

FONTWELL

HYPERION 1.30 Stapleford Lady 2.05 Galatasori Jane 2.40 Canton Venture 3.15 IRISH DOMINION (nap) 3.50 Chickabiddy 4.20 Ajcombe

GOING: Good (Good to firm in places).

Left-hand hardle course; figure-of-eight chase course. Tight circuit, not suitable for long-stricing horses.

Pacecourse is south of village at junction of A29 and A27. Barnham railway station (Brighton – Portsmouth line) is 2 miles away.

ADMISSION: CILD E13. Paddock 19. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS (SYEAR RECORD): J GBGMO 21-108 (198%).

R Buckter 18-69 (271%), M Pipe 18-66 (242%), R Rowe 14-129 (108%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Hide 19-85 (224%), B Powell 15-113 (133%), D O'Suilliven 12-89 (185%), D Gallagher 10-71 (141%).

AVOURTES: 25-483 (445%). FAVOURITES: 215-483 (44.5%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Gris Et Vloket (visored, 130).

1.30 FONTWELL PARK MEMBERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 22,375 added 2m 2f 110yds

2.40 STREBEL BOILERS HANDICAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m 2f 110yds 221F- EAU DE COLOGNE (151) (BF) Mrs L Richards 5 12 0.

FU-TE CANTON VENTURE (22) (CD) (SF) S Woods 5 ti 8... 2K20/ HUM FOR DANTE (682) G Hubbard 7 to 12 ... A Thornton R14-62 COURAGEOUS KNOGHT (13) P Hayward 8 10 2 .. B Femior

- 6 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Canton Venture, 7-2 Courageous Knight, 4-1 Bracon, 5-1 Eau De Cologne, 8-1 Ben Bowden, 12-1 Run For Danie.

2.05 ACTION RESEARCH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 3m 2f 110yds 3.15 DEREK WIGAN MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,100 added 2m 2f 53/30 NESCAF (NZ) (494) R Rose 7 11 10 ___

3422-3 COOL WEATHER (16) C Pophem 9 ti 4. Mr O McPhell (7) B POOCE BLACK STATEMENT (240) J Gifford 7 Ti 2.... L Ampell (3) PRISH DOMENON (5) P Boven 7 10 0 (7ex) ... R Johnson B - 6 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: hish Dominion 9st 7tb.

BET (ING: 5-4 trick Dominion, 9-4 Mester Bomber, 13-2 Nescal, 8-1 Cool Weather, Black Statement, 16-1 Fruit Town.

3.50 FORD AMATEURS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 3f P.P463 MAN MOOD (FR) (27) (D) C Brooks 6 12 0 ... Mr E Jannes (7)

44425 GABISH (5) (CD) B Scriven 12 10 10........ Mr O McPhall (7) 73P-3P WHAT IS THE PLAN (5) B Payros 8 10 8 . Mas 9 Durack (7)

BETTING: 5-4 Chickebiddy, 8-4 Man Mood, 5-1 Suger HB, 13-2 Gableh, 14-1 Whet is The Pisn, 18-1 Shimba HBs.

4.20 RULING DYNASTY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110vds F2-0 GENTLEMAN Jill (31) C Mann 7 11 5 J McCarthy
05-0 JAVELIN COOL (350) G Habbard 6 11 5 A Thornton
P3G KILLEANEY CARR (212) J Gritori 6 11 5 L Aspeti (3)

- 8 declared -BETTRIC: 6-4 Alcombe, 15-8 Gentleman Jim, 4-1 Killensey Cent, 10-1

Expansive Runner, 18-1 Javelin Cool, 20-1 Castle Barry.

<u>YARMOUTH</u>

1.20 Anjou 1.55 Silverani (nb) 2.30 Happy Days Again 3.05 Great Dane 3.40 There Be Demons 4.10 Be Warned

GOING: Prim.

STALLS: Straight course - far side; Remainder - Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51 to 1m.

Left-hand course, level and fair.

Course is north of town on AMB, Yarmouth rail station 1m. ADMISSION: Club 512. Telessals 1950; Course enclosure \$450 (OAPs

23.50; CAR PARK: 51, free parking available.

LEADING TRAINERS: WITH REMAINERS: C Britishn 24-75 (13.7%),

LEADING TRAINERS: WITH REMAINERS: C Britishn 24-75 (13.7%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: M Hells 33-195 (16.8%), L Deuton 28-137 (20.4%), W Ryan 24-159 (15.1%), G Duffield 15-108 (19.9%).

PAYOURITES: 245-659 (37.2%),

BURNICERED FIRST TIME: Shiring Cloud (4.10).

1.20 NEWPORT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 5f 17yds

10544 PARADISE NAVY (15) (CD) C Egerton 89.7 L Dattorl 3 B ANJOU (7) (C) J Poetro 5.96 K Pation 5 CD Dattorl (256) Mrs A Parent 6.94 A Clark 4 S5342 BATABANDO (49 (C) Mrs M Roveiny 8.9.2 J Red 8 0.0660 SO KEEN (51) A Balley 4.9.2 PRoberts (5) 5 0060-9 GRESHAM FLYER (7) Mrs S Lamyman 4.6.12 J Razning 7 026006 ROSE OF GLEIN (28) (0) B Pating 6.89 J Quicin 2 066000 MIONACLE (7) D Morris 3.8.7 NO. N. Day 1 B

BETTING: 6-4 Paredise Navy, 5-2 Anjoo, 7-2 Batabanco, 12-1 Doyenna, 14-1 Monacie, 18-1 Citating, 30-1 Rose Of Gisson, 33-1 others 1.55 CORTON CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) 27,500 added 1m 2f 21yds

SETTUNG: 5-2 Staplesterd Lady, 11-4 King Caran, 4-1 The Executor, 13-2 Maryuto, 7-1 Northern Optimist, 8-1 Mizzig, 14-1 Grie Et Violet.

F2112 GALATASORI JANE (6) (CD) (BF) P Nichals 7 12 0

BETTENG: 11-10 Galetasori Jane, 9-4 Karar, 3-1 Secret Bid, 16-1 Kinasi

21RP-P ISHMA (5) L Webs 6 10 12 SISH4- KARAR (158) (7) (0) R Rows 7 10 12 4222-5 (MISSIOLOGY (12) R Budder 3 10 12 20LP-4 SECRET BID (7) R Alter 7 10 12

11214/ BARON FERDINAND (816) (D) (BP) R Charlon 7 9 2. 0.4385 BEHAVIOUR (72) (D) Wa J Cacl 5 9 2. 2.426 SELVERANI (13) (BF) L Cumari 3 9 0. 230000 UNICONDITIONAL LOVE (10) M Johnston 4 8 11 - 4 declared -BETTING: 4-5 Silverani, 3-1 Unconditional Love, 7-2 Behavious, 14-1 Baron.

2.30 LOUND NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2YO 5f 43yds

- 9 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Mrs. Malaprop. 4-1 Classy Cieo, 8-1 Heppy Days Again, Carol Singer, 7-1 Arian Da, 8-1 Nory's Joy, Swinnaors Ludy, 12-1 others

,2

3.05 HERRINGFLEET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2YO 7f ASAD Sesed bin Surcer 9 0... KENBERLEY G Wrapy 80_ RAFFAELO M Cismon 90 TIGUILIO C Wal 90 VEROCITY (FR) G Wracy 90 8 declared -

-8 decigned -RETTING: 6-4 Great Dane, 11-4 Ased, 7-2 Double Classic, 6-1 Kimber-ley, 12-1 Reflecto, 14-1 Highly Pleased, 20-1 Verocity, 25-1 Tiguillo. 3.40 RANWORTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2YO 1m 3yds

THERE BE DEMONS (USA) G Wagg 90

, 14-1 Publisher, 16-1 Stemsinger, 20-1 Buttle Warning, 25-

4.10 CALIFORNIA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,225 added 7f 3yds 025005 SPEEDY CLASSIC (USA) (33) (D) M Heaton-Bits 8 8 12. 253200 MEZZORAMIO (21) (CD) K Morgan 5 89 .. (25)05 BE WARNED (11) (C) (D) J Pearce 6 B 9 ___ G Bardwell 3 004056 DARK MENACE (33) (D) E Wheeler 5 8 4 ____ ...J F Bose 10 5-0064 KOSEVO (22) M Meagher 3 7 13 ______ P Fessivy (5) 2 000010 LUNCH PARTY (33) (CD) (EF) D Nicholls 5 7 13 _

RUGBY LEAGUE

Britain lose Harris for Test series

lestyn Harris has become the latest British player to withdraw from the British Gas Test series against Australia.

The Leeds stand-off has ruled himself out of all three matches because of a longstanding back injury. The loss of the one special-

ist stand-off left in the squad means that the Great Britain coach. Andy Goodway, is even more likely to use his captain, Andy Farrell, in that position at Wembley on Saturday. Britain had another injury

scare yesterday when Stuart Spruce turned an ankle in training, but he is expected to be fit when Goodway names his team, as he now hopes to do tomorrow.

Australia's most experienced forward at Test level. Bradley Clyde, is doubtful for the match after damaging a calf muscle running up a flight of steps after a training session. The Australian coach, John Lang, has named him in the team, but the Canberra Raiders back-rower is rated as no more than a 50-50 prospect.

Clyde would be a major loss to Australia, so he will be given as long as possible to prove that he is capable of getting through the game. If he fails then the Brisbane forward Gorden Tallis, at present earmarked for the bench, will come in to the starting line-up.

The only real surprise that Lang has sprung is naming Brett Mullins, originally a fullback and now more often used at centre, on the wing ahead of his Canberra team-mate, Ken Nagas, who is another of the four substitutes.

As expected, Craig Gower is at scrum-half, with Steve Walters booking, while Penrith's Ryan Girdler is the logical replacement for the injured Steve Renouf in the centre.

The Rugby League is delaying registering Tevita Vaikona as a Bradford Bulls player while it investigates the circumstances of his transfer from Hull. Three Hull directors have since complained that they never ratified the move. AUSTRALIA (v Greet Britain, First Test, Wembley, Saturday): Lockyer, Mulins, Grider, Etingshauser, Salor, Daley, Gower, Stevens, Walters, Thorn, Adamson, Chyde, Smith, Substitutes: Keems, Talis, Kimmorley,

Dave Hadfield

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

FA Carling Premiership
1 Aston Vila v Chelses
2 Barnsley v Blackburn
3 Bolton v Uverpool 8 Wimbledon v Covertry Nationwide Football League

First Division 9 Bradford City v West Brow 10 Charlion v loswich 11 Huddersfield v Stoke ... 17 Sheffield Utd v Tranmere 18 Stockport v Sunderland 19 Wolves v Middlesbrough Friday: Portsmouth v Swind

Second Division 24 Futnam v Chesterfield 25 Gifinghern v Milwaii 25 Grimsby v Southend 27 Northampton v Brist don v Bristol Rovers 30 Wigan v York . Third Division

32 Barnet v Notts County 33 Cambridge Utd v Torquey 34 Chester v Rochdate 35 Darlington v Hull (10) 37 Hartlegool v Brights

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 40 Aberdeen v Hearts... 41 Dunfermine v Celtic 42 Hibernian v Dundee Utd.... 43 Rangers v Kirnernock 44 St Johnstone v Motherwell

First Division 46 Dundee v Partick ... - Hamilton v Morton 47 Strling v St Mirren

V Albon Holes; Less Suring y Arbrosth; Montrose V Dumber-ton; Queen's Park v Ross County, Sunday; Scottlish League Chellenge Cup final; Patick v Queen of the South (3.0) (or Fir Park, Motherwell). Four draws: Bacford City v West Brom wich; Bristol City v Oldham; Darfington v Hull; Rotherham v Macclesfield.

Five aways: Blackburn, Liverpool, Notis County, Peterborough; Celtic. Ten Nomer: Manchester Utd. Nottingham Forest, Queen's Park Rangers, Sheffield Utd. Northampton, Preston, Wattord, Scar-borough, Rangers, Dundee.

SACESTANT CONTROL CONT

McCarthy happy with his history of good finishing

The Republic of Ireland play Belgium in Dublin today in the first leg of a play-off to qualify for next year's World Cup finals. Glenn Moore talks to the Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, whose reign of contrasting fortunes is mirroring that of his international playing career.

When Mick McCarthy first became a regular in the Republic of Ireland team, many supporters and critics were unhappy. Not only was McCarthy English, but he was also keeping the popular and cultured David O'Leary out of the team. A dozen years and 57 caps later, 40,000 filled Lansdowne Road for a testimonial match

The first matches of the eagerly awaited World Cup play-offs take place today. Defeat for Italy would deprive the contest of one of its giants. But for Russia, as Phil Reeves in Moscow finds out, losing would be another setback in a struggle to shrug off a cloak of crime that is engulfing its sporting world.

Only a fool would want to revive those mean stereotypes about the Italians being cowards. True, they have brought their own food to Moscow - including pasta, parmesan cheese and olive oil - but who can blame them for distrusting the globules of fat and evil-smelling pickles that so often pass for Russian cuisine?

And, true, their coach has been complaining about the possibility of a bad pitch, but that's just weigh-in rhetoric, the caution of a man whose job is on the line and who can imagine the wrath of 60 million Italians only too well.

What is far more striki the overriding mood of gloom and suspicion surrounding this match. Any sense of excitement about a game that will go a long way towards deciding the fate of two of the world's great football nations is entirely absent. Hype has given way to hypochondria.

The Russians are the main offenders. The Eeyores of the planet, they are approaching the match with superstitious pessimism. Humiliated by draws with Cyprus and Israel, they have taken to full-scale mourning about the general prestige of our game is as low as it can be," moaned Alexei Zavgorodny of the newspaper Sovetski Sport, after trotting out the standard complaint that too many stars play abroad (The squad of 21 includes players from nine foreign teams

and only seven Russian ones). It particularly bothers them that this parlous state of affairs coincides with the 100th anniversary of Russian football, an event which hardly seems worth celebrating, given that the game was introduced by the British who established their own clubs, but strongly discouraged

Russians from joining them. Discouraged, the Russians to recognise McCarthy's contribution to Irish football.

A similar pattern is emerging in his managerial career. A grim start - five defeats and two draws - reached its nadir when two players and McCarthy were given red cards in a match with Mexico. McCarthy's dismissal was overturned on appeal but, coming on top of a contested appointment - the president of the Football Association of Ireland, Louis Kilcoyne, was removed after publicly stating McCarthy was not his preferred choice - that record

provoked growing discontent. Three successive victories briefly quelled the doubts, only for them to be revived after home draws against Iceland and Lithuania and a tempestuous defeat in Macedonia jeopardised Ireland's chances of even coming second in Group Eight.

Yet McCarthy, renowned cause...' Some don't say anyas a positive thinker, never appeared to waver while the FAL now behind its man, backed him by extending his contract to the

2000 European Championship. McCarthy himself was able to draw on his experiences as a player with Barnsley, Manchester City, Celtic and Olympique Lyonnais - and especially as a manager at Millwall. After two good seasons he had a grim period there in early 1994, with two wins in the opening 17 games and criticism which has clearly left a mark.

"You learn through adversity like that," he said when I dragged him away from his stack of Belguim videos to talk. "You learn about yourself and who your friends are. Who calls up and says 'chin up, big man, you'll come through this', and the ones who stay away. Some say 'I didn't call then be-

enough people considered the quality of the opposition - five Euro 96 qualifiers - and the changes he was making when they considered his start, but he accepts that "people do look at results". Victories in Iceland

Leading goalscorers: 7 Cascino; 6 Cornolly; 4 O'Nell. Sent off: 6 (including McCartiny, from the bench).

thing at all."

McCarthy felt that not and Lithuania ultimately justi-

The Republic of Ireland under Mick McCarthy P19 W6 D6 L7 F31 A23 Biggest win: 5-0 v Liechten-stein (home and away) Biggest defeat: 3-1 v the Netherlands (away) Neura manus.
Most appearances: 15
McLoughlin; 14 Kenna, Harte;
13 Curningham, Cascarino; 12
Given, Breen, Kennedy; 11
Townsend (Others include:
Staunton 10; Keane 9; Irwin 7, fied his and his employers' faith, and only Belgium now stand between Ireland and a third successive World Cup. All this has been achieved with a transitional team which has been cruelly disrupted by injuries. Phil Babb, Steve Staunton, Alan Kelly and, currently, Niall Quinn, Roy Keane

the vagaries of club selection. Not that he is complaining. He can be pushed into admitting: "Aspects of the job can be frustrating," but he quickly adds, "but that applies to managing Millwall or anyone. It is a great job. Managing, along with coaching, is the next best

among those injured. Other

players have been affected by

thing to playing. "I've not been surprised by the job. It was obviously difficult to take over from Jack [Charlton] but I think people

quickly realised I was not like him. If I'd tried to do it like him it would have been impossible. The only aspect that has been a surprise is the profile. I've been an international footballer but this is different. As a a manager you are not actually on your own but you are in the sense that the spotlight is and Keith O'Neill have been

on you alone." In 19 matches McCarthy has chosen 38 players and never sent out an unchanged side. There have been 15 new caps with such players as Given, Kenny Conningham, Ian Harte, David Connolly, Gary Breen and O'Neill establishing themselves in the squad.

He has also overhauled the playing style, introducing a passing game after Charlton's controversial direct approach, "There's two reasons. We have different philosophies on football and the game itself has moved on. I've seen Jack quoted saying that he thinks the system he developed had been a little bit sussed by the end. The back-pass rule affected us as a lot of our attacks started from the goalkeepers hands with us pushing up and pressing them.

"Our style was very demanding, especially in the heat as I found in '88 European Championship in Germany and '90 (World Cup in Italy). You need young legs, and willing ones - Roy Houghton still runs as well as anyone. A lot players had come to the end of that system."

Jeff Kenna, the Blackburn defender capped six times by Chariton and 14 by McCarthy. agreed: "The top countries keep the ball and if your game is based on closing them down. banging the ball forward and ng when you eventually get



McCarthy: 'The spotlight is on you alone'

the ball you are too tired to do anything with it.

"Mick believes the way forward is through possession. He's trying to get the team to get the ball down and pass through midfield rather than just going straight from back to front. Under Jack the team had grown senior together: Mick has had to find new players."

Depleted Croatia seek inspiration

Croatia may be without two of their best players - the striker Alen Boksic and the midfielder Robert Prosinecki - for today's first leg of their World Cup play-off against Ukraine.

Boksic injured his left leg playing for Lazio, while Prosinecki of Croatia Zagreb has a knee injury. "I think both are almost certain not to play." Croatia's assistant coach. Branko Ivankovic, said, "I don't know what it would take to enable Boksic to play."

0115

Croatia rarely impressed during the qualification phase of the tournament in which they finished second behind Denmark in Group One. Their coach, Miroslav Blazevic, wiir not name his line-up until nearer kick-off time but he implied his team may contain some surprises. "You may be shocked when you see the formation I will send out." he said.

The Ukraine coach Jozsef Szabo bolstered his defence with a handful of late call-ups this week to suggest he will opt for caution. The arrival of the Dinamo Kiev defenders Alexander Holovko and Andrei Gusin, both of whom were involved in last week's European, Champions' League thrashing of Barcelona, raises the possibility of Szabo fielding a side entirely drawn from that club. Dinamo now have 11 representatives in the 23-man

Sergei Rebrov may be asked to play a lone role up front in the absence of his suspended Dinamo strike partner, Andrei Shevchenko.

Hungary are hoping that strong teamwork will be enough for them to overcome Yugoslavia today. "I heard the everyone in the play-offs wanted to play against Hungary," their defender Janos Banfi said. "But I think that after what we produced in the group stage we can still qualify.

Banfi is one of three key Hungarians, along with the striker Laszlo Klausz and the midfielder Florian Urban, who return to the squad after missing the final qualifier with Finland. Hungary drew in Helsinki when a freak last-minute Finnish own goal earned them the point they needed to make the play-off stage.



The Italian squad, wrapped up against the Moscow cold, train for tonight's World Cup play-offs as military cadets clearing snow from the terraces look on

Moscow gripped by a mood of foreboding

state of their football. "The have turned to their other favourite pastime: conjuring up conspiracy theories to explain away possible defeat. They say that the World Cup organisers really want Italy to make it to the finals, a remark that is followed by a meaningful silence which says that somehow, somewhere, someone is going to fix it.

"What worries us is whether the refereeing will be objective." lamented the weekly newspaper... Argumenti i fakti. "Or will there be some tricks, as happened previously? The world press has frequently hinted that the World Cup will not be entertaining enough without the Italians ... From the

financial point of view, Italy would be much more profitable for France than Russia. So we are worried for our guys. They should be extremely careful and try not to bring anyone down in the penalty area."

To outsiders - and despite England's own scandals over allegations of back-handers and match rigging - such views seem unduly neurotic, the handwringing of a nation which is determined to feel unloved. But in Russia, the sporting world is infused with a deep mood of distrust, and with reason. Conspiracies actually

In June, Larisa Nechayeva, the head of finance at Spartak

Moscow, was gunned down in what is believed to be Russian football's first contract murder. Two months earlier Valentin Sych, the head of the Russian [Ice] Hockey Federation died in a hail of automatic rifle bullets. He had publicly warned that players and officials were coming under increasing pres-

sure from mobsters seeking a cut of the growing sponsorship income and the huge sums that Russian teams had been raking from the US for the rights to their stars. "Criminals try to approach

people in different ways," says Mr Rodionov, of the Russian football union. "They make some very tempting offers.

partly to launder their criminal earnings and partly to make contacts with local authorities, like governors, directors of big enterprises, by pushing their people into the football clubs and associations. We try to avoid such contacts because it will bring a lot of trouble."

The genesis of much of the rot comes from the Russian government itself. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, it could no longer afford to fund sport, Boris Yeltsin's administration sought to fill the gap by granting some sporting organisations the right to import alcohol and cigarettes tax-free. The instant, massive profits (now stopped) immediately

attracted organised crime, which been active in sport ever Going to France would not

rid Russia of this cancer, but it might help, if only by reminding the government of the value of keeping its sports above board, if only to ease its path to the world stage More's the pity, then, that the Russians are already casting themselves as underdogs

which not only feel picked on by the outside world, but which are strangely determined to throw away the advantages of playing at home. There has been confusion

over ticket sales, which was supposed to have begun at the

Monday. Calls to the ground last week were answered by a caretaker. And the match is being played in the wrong place. The Russians had hoped it would be in Moscow's 82,000-seat Luzhniki stadium, which has just had a £115m facelift. But the pitch fell apart during heavy rain during Russia's game against Bulgaria two weeks ago. The new venue will be at Dinamo's ground, which has about twothirds the capacity.

weekend, but only opened on

This is, of course, a cock-up. But you can rest assured that the Russian fans who brave the winter's first fall of snow tonight will call it a conspiracy. Unless, of course, they win.

FA to investigate Hartson's comments about referee

The Football Association is to homer. We knew he was going investigate comments made by the West Ham striker John Hartson towards the referee Mike Reed during Monday's Premiership game with Leicester City at Filbert Street.

The FA will have to decide whether to take any action against the Welsh international, who criticised the referce's handling of the game, which Leicester won 2-1 with a late goal from Ian Marshall.

Hartson called the official "a disgrace" and claimed that every decision seemed to go

Leicester's way. "I thought he was an absolute joke and his performance deserved to be marked nought out of 10," Hartson said. "We played well and were just robbed by the referee. He's a ceive a suspension or line.

to be hard because he was under pressure with the fans."

Hartson was referring to the anger felt by Leicester supporters over the controversial last-minute penalty Reed awarded to Chelsea against Martin O'Neill's side in their FA Cup lifth-round match at Stamford Bridge in February.

Hartson said: "I don't know whether he was trying to get back on their side - but he's sent me off in the past because I called him a shithouse and perhaps I'll stick to my guns."

The former Arsenal striker, whose 12 goals for the Hammers this season have put him at the ton of the leading scorers list. may face a disrepute charge and if he is found guilty, could re-

Paul Ince has made a heartfelt plea to West Ham fans to end their eight-year hate campaign against him. The Liverpool and England captain wants to bury the hatchet for posing in a Manchester United shirt

player in 1989. Ince moved to Old Trafford soon afterwards and helped United win the title in 1993 for the first time in 26 years. But West Ham fans refused to forgive the llford-born midfielder and, although Ince missed his first scheduled return to Upton Park through injury, he received a torrent of abuse when he made his long-awaited return to the East End in

while he was still a Hammers

February 1994. "I wish I could turn back the clock," he said, speaking in the November issue of Hammers News. "I definitely would not have done it. I am not stupid. I am nearly 30 years old and a lot wiser for that experience. I can understand the fans' reaction because it wasn't a nice thing for me to do."

Ince's plea to shirty West Ham fans

Arie Haan, the coach of Feyenoord, Manchester United's opponents in the Champions' League next week, was sacked vesterday following a string of bad results.

Haan will be replaced temporarily by the assistant coach. Geert Meijer. There was no immediate word on a permanent replacement. "It is sad that I have had to

take this decision in the interests of Feyenoord," the club chairman, Jorien van den Herik, said in a press release. "The disappointing results were

Haan, a former Dutch international player, had been in charge of Feyenword since October 1995. He took the team to second place in the Dutch league last season behind PSV Eindhoven, and this term guided his players into the Champ-

ions' League. However, a spate of losses and morale problems in the team led to pressure on Haan to quit. Feyenoord stand fifth in the Dutch league, with six wins from 11 matches and 13 points adrift of the leaders. Ajax.

A 5-1 defeat by Juventus in the Champions' League in September was followed by recent losses to the lowly Dutch team Willem II Tilburg, Manchester United in the Champions' League, and a 4-0 defeat at

"There was a gulf between us and it was made obvious here." Haan said following that

defeat. "That is very painful." The Scotland manager, Craig Brown, has welcomed a substantial Lottery award aimed at creating a winning double next year. Brown, who has already guided his country to France 98, hopes the funding can provide a boost to Scotland's Under-16 squad next

The Lottery Sports Fund has awarded the Scottish Football Association £55,833 ahead of the Uefa Under-16 Championship, to be held in Scotland. The money will be used to fund the Scottish squad's preparations for the competition including coaching, transport, training and facilities.

Brolin's troubled stay at Leeds ends with financial settlement

Tomas Brolin's two-year spell at Leeds United has finally ended in a financial settlement.

Brolin's contract - due to expire next summer - has been terminated with immediate effect. leaving him free to negotiate his own transfer. The settlement figure is believed to be around £140,000, helping Leeds save up to £700,000 in wages on the re-

mainder of his contract. Liverpool have granted Mark Kennedy's transfer request, Kennedy. 21, became the most expensive teenager in British transfer history when he left Millwall for Anfield for £2m in 1995, but has failed to make

an impression in the first team. Bolton's Gerry Taggart will miss his club's next six matches after falling foul of the FA's new disciplinary system.

Taggart received the double ban because the new disciplinary points system allocates a yellow card for his dismissal against West Ham on 18 October, even though he was sent off for only one offence. That took his yellow total for the season to five, carrying an automatic threematch suspension to add to the. same penalty for the sending-off. Meanwhile, Steve Bull has

won his appeal against a red card for alleged violent conduct when Swindon visited Molineux 10 days ago. The dismissal has been changed to a caution. The Nottingham Forest goal-

keeper, Dave Beasant, has had the first red card of his career rescinded after the referee John Brandwood saw a video of his... challenge on Reading's Martin Williams on Friday.

Stundbridge steps up s Dickson departs

The British yachtsman. Paul Standbridge, has tepped in as skipper of Whitbread Round The World Race favourites Toshiba following the resignation of Chris Dickson. Stuart Alexander reports from Cape Town

It had been predicted for days, but still it came as a surprise when Chris Dickson announced yesterday that he was leaving Toshiba with only one leg of the Whitbread Round The World Race completed.

Under the New Zealander, Toshiba was the pre-race favourite to win the nine-leg. 32,000-mile event. Sixth place over the first leg to Cape Town had been "a bad result but not disastrous," Dickson said.

Bill Trenkle, the Team Dennis Conner campaign manager, said that Dickson had come ashore after the first leg with a huge list of things he wanted to change. "It was insurmountable and not practical," he said. adding that the list included per-

sonnel aboard the boat. As Paul Standbridge, for- rest of the race."

merly watch on Toshiba, stepped up to take over, Dickson laid the blame not on deteriorating relations with his 10-man crew but on a dispute with Conner.

The decision I have made I have not taken lightly," Dickson said, "There has been a number of issues under discussion for quite some time. I am not happy with the way things are and I am not prepared to continue on that basis. The result of the first leg was a reflection of the way things

were being managed." Standbridge, who was first approached on Monday night, was only told at 7.30am yesterday that he was taking over as skipper. His first job was to tell the crew of the decision to appoint him and ask them if they could support that. There

was no dissent, he said. "I know I have 100 per cent support from them and hope this continues on the next eight legs," he said. "It is a burden of responsibility but one I am not shy of. We have lost an exceptionally good sailor whose shoes I will not fill in exactly the same manner. I will be very much relying on the skill of my crew to support me through the

a fighter, a personality, a

the race, Lawrie Smith, con-

curred, saying, "Dickson's very

good, a big, big threat." But he

still expects Toshiba to do well

Smith said. "I know Paul very

well. He's a good sailor and I

know he'll do very well. They're

still a big threat and we'll keep

an eye on them, but it's good

to have another British skipper

He's always wanted to run his

own show and this is the next

British navigator Stuart Quar-

rie is to join the 10th-placed

with João Cabecadas moving

place of Rovi Rovigue, who has

Cape Town on 8 November and

goes to Fremantle, Australia,

where the yachts are expected

to arrive around 23 November.

The next leg starts from

In a separate reshuffle,

"It's what Paul wanted to do.

"It might even go better."

under Standbridge.

best thing.

yachtsman of huge talent.

TENNIS

Kafelnikov cruises into the last 16

Grant Dalton, a fierce rival: The former French Open on Merit Cup, said that the ; champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov whole race had lost something, yesterday became the first player to reach the last 16 of the Paris Indoor Open when he beat his doubles partner, The other British skipper in Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2.

The Russian fifth seed, runner-up in the tournament last year, now plays either the 11th seed, Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil. or Frenchman Nicolas Escude and looked ominously sharp as he rattled back a series of service returns which left Vacek no chance.

Kafelnikov was later joined in the third round by the No 12 seed, Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, who snatched a thrilling 6-3 6-7 7-6 victory over his compatriot Thomas Johansson.

Cedric Pioline, this year's beaten Wimbledon finalist, will meet the US Open champion, Dutch entry Brunel Sunergy, Patrick Rafter of Australia, in the second round after beating into the general crew and Herve : his fellow French Davis Cup Jan becoming watch leader in player Lionel Roux 6-2, 6-4.

Todd Woodbridge of Australia needed just 75 minutes to record a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Swedish qualifier Mikael Tillstrom and now plays sixth seed Carlos Moya of Spain.

France's Fabrice Santoro,



Yevgeny Kafelnikov sweeps to victory over his doubles partner, Daniel Vacek, in Paris yesterday Photograph: AFP

who won bis first ATP title at Lyon two weeks ago, came through a gruelling errorstrewn match against Magnus

The 24-year-old now plays the No 14 seed and former

Larsson of Sweden.

Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands after his 0-6, 6-4, 7-6 triumph.

Lions leadership gives Johnson an edge

Clive Woodward is caught between a rock -Martin Johnson - and a hard case - Lawrence Dallaglio - when choosing England's next rugby union's captain.

David Llewellyn examines the pair's credentials.

The success of the Lions tour to South Africa in the summer could well have a significant bearing on the choice of the man to lead England against Australia in 17 days' time, the identity of whom is expected to be announced this morning.

Two men emerged from the playing reputations attaining legendary status after their heroic contributions. But while the individual worth of Martin Johnson and Lawrence

Leicester man who appears to have the edge.

Johnson was, after all, captain and to have commanded men from four different countries, and turn them into a unified and formidable force on the world champions' doorstep, gives him a clear edge in terms of job experience.

There has been universal approval for Johnson's leadership qualities and the understated way he goes about the business of captaincy. Johnson, the best front-jumper in the world, leads by example. He is captain of Leicester, the club he supported as a boy, and led them to Pilkington Cup success last season. When he is fully fit he is one of the more athletic sec-

Off the field Johnson eschews the limelight and generally keeps his own counsel. His concern is with getting things right on the pitch and rugby does Dallaglio to the overall cause not dominate his life outside the cannot be separated, it is the hours spent training and playing.

Dallaglio has already missed out once in the England captaincy stakes, and seems destined to do so again. Just over a year ago he and Phil de Glanville were regarded as the favourites to succeed Will Carling, Jack Rowell, the then Eng-

> This time Dallaglio is arguably better prepared for the role. Captaining Wasps for the last two seasons, a position that he was given when he was 23, he has learned on the hoof how to cope with the stresses of leadership.

land coach, chose de Glanville.

As a back-row forward of outstanding class and ability he is, of necessity, more mobile and occasionally he will be found on the end of a scoring pass to finish off something he may well have started.

Defensively he is peerless. Run up against him and you hit a concrete wall. Leading Wasps to the Courage League title last season underlined his qualities.

Like Johnson he is quite

prepared to sound off during a match, exhorting his players, urging them to greater effort. He is often seen questioning the referee after a decision clarifying the situation would be his explanation. Unlike Johnson, off the field Dallaglio does not shun the media attention and he appears perfectly

focused when in the public eye. Johnson has been reported as saying: "I haven't come back from South Africa thinking, 'I've led the Lions to victory, now I should be England captain'." Dallaglio is equally modest and has said: "I regard captaining England as an honour, not an ambition."

One of them must lose out though not completely. Shortward said: "It's important we have a couple of guys capable of captaining England, so that if the main bloke gets injured, the other can step in." So what price on a captain and vice-captain being named?

Pontypridd trio refused permission for Brive return

Pontypridd last night failed to overturn a ban imposed on three of their players which prohibits them from setting foot in the Correze region of South West France, and therefore Brive, for their Heineken European Cup play-off on

Saturday. The trio, No 8 Dale Mc-Intosh, hooker Phil John and centre Andre Barnard face charges following an alleged incident in Le Bar Toulzac in Brive six weeks ago on Pontypridd's first visit there. Under French law they cannot return to the region while inquiries are being carried out, unless they obtain an exemption cer-

which has been rejected. English rugby introduces the concept of the sin bin to the Allied Dunbar Premiership this weekend. Referees will flourish a white triangle where they deem that a player is guilty

of a technical offence, namely in the tackle (failing to release the ball or preventing its release) and deliberately moving into an offside position.

The sinners will be made to sit apart from the replacements' bench and a fourth official will be appointed by the home club to monitor the 10 minute period of exile. A second sin-bin offence will result

in a sending-off. The Ireland and Lions lock Jeremy Davidson is expected to miss the rest of this season after exploratory surgery revealed ruptured anterior cruciate ligaments in a knee. He will have another operation

in four weeks. The Bath hooker Frederico Mendez is resting in his native Argentina after suffering a displaced vertebra in the upper area of his back. He is expected to return by Christmas.

David Uewellyn

Tennis

62 PARIS INDOOR OPEN MEN'S TOURNA-MENT First round: F Sardaro (Fr) bt M Lars-son (Swg) 0-6-6-47-6; T Woodbridgo (Aus) bt M 1 listation (Swe) 6-3-6-3. C Polario (Fr) bt L Pour (Fr) 6-2-6-4. M Cooliner (Gor) bt A Por-tios (Sp) 6-3-5-6-3. M Cardarison (Swe) bt M Darrim (Car) 7-6-5-7-6-4. A Cement (Fr) bt M Plasset (Swe) 5-7-6-6-4. Second round: Y Kaldrikov (Pur) bt D Vlacek (Cz Pop) 6-1-6-2. J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J Johansson (Swe) 6-3-6-7-7-6.

COLOMBIAN OPEN (Bogota) Men's first round: D Songurretti (i) br G Blanco (Spi 6-2 3-6-7-6.) Burlo (Spi 10-5 Costa (i) 7-5 6-1; R Vazek (Cz Repi bt J A Marth (Spi 7-5 6-1; V Spadea (US) br E Fincon (Cal) 6-1 6-1. M lobone (Cal) bt O Ogrodov (Uzbel) 5-7 6-3

Winners and losers in new world of professional rugby



ALAN WATKINS ON RUGBY

The first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership is clearly going to affect the Five Nations' Championship and, indeed, world rugby. What is less clear is what those effects will be.

The consequence of professionalism so far has been that the centre of rugby gravity in the British Isles has shifted towards London. That, after all, is where the money is. You do not up to he a fully paid-up Marxist to acknowledge that the players will go where the cash is most abundant.

Newcastle are an aberrant case. Twenty years ago, under the name of Gosforth, they enjoyed a run of success in what was then the John Playor Cup. "Where exactly," Metropolitan aficianados would ask, "is Gosforth"." Newcastle are flourishing today, top of the First Division with Saracens, not because of a revival of any glorious past but because Sir John Hall decided he wanted a rugby team in his native city who

were as highly regarded as the

football team. And who would have predicted, only five years ago, that Saracens would be a more formidable outfit than Swansea or Llanclli? Until now, they were not even a properly established club and they might have gone the same way as, say, Esher or Streatham-Croydon. Admitavoid that fate well before the arrival of the millionaire Nigel Wray but the consequential arrival of Philippe Sella, Michael Lynagh and François Pienaar has pushed them to the top, though none

of these gentlemen is exactly in the first flush of youth. Richmond have suffered a long period of decline but today, with 13 internationals (the majority of them non-English) they are third in the table. Their sugar daddy is Ashley Levett, who made a lot of money through some complicated and adventurous operations in the copper

market. I do not want to speculate

about whether Hall, Levett, particularly.

Wray and others like them will lose their enthusiasm for the game and whether, or in what form, the structure will survive if they do. The concentration of leading clubs in England, and particularly in London, will continue for the

immediate future. My paradoxical conclusion is that, while the general standard of play in the Five Nations will rise, this will be at the expense of the countries involved.

England will suffer because the first choice teams in the top division are increasingly composed of non-English players. Playing for Leicester against Bath last Saturday, Joel Stransky was in a class apart. If the South Africans had picked him against the Lions they would almost certainly have won the series on his place-kicking

Thierry Lacroix of Harlequins is almost as effective though not such a polished performer. That point is that Stransky and Lacroix are keeping out of their sides players, perhaps unknown, who might resolve England's

difficulties at outside-half. Let us now look at the position from the point of view not of England but of the countries that are, increasingly, supplying the leading English clubs with players.

Scotland has always had a kind of accommodation with the English clubs. So. also has Ireland, the more so in recent seasons, Indeed, it may become more convenient to hold Ireland's training sessions at London Irish

or even at Stansted airport. My native land is different. It is jealous of its clubs and its players. The Welsh have a long history of unjustly disregarding players who turn out for English clubs. unless that club happened to be London Welsh.

This chauvinistic attitude will clearly have to change, if tedly they had managed to it has not changed already. Seven members of the current Weish pack could be selected from English clubs: John Davies, Craig and Scott Quinnell and Barry Williams, from Richmond, Nathan Thomas and Richard Webster from Bath and Gareth

11

Llewellyn from Harlequins. Ieuan Evans, now of Bath, may or may not play another international season, Allan Bateman, of Rich-

mond, is a certainty. Welsh club rughy will never be the same. There may even have to be almagamations but there is, I am afraid, no point in resisting the shift of power to England generally and London

SPORTING DIGEST

American football NFL: New England 10 Green Bay 28; Miami 33 Chicago 36.

Athletics The Goodwill Games will hold the 2002 multi-sport competition outside the United States and Russia for the first time, dissolving the old partner-ship with Soviet and Russian sport-ing authorities. Michael Plant, the Games president, said that after the 1998 Games in New York, the next site

would probably be in the Far East or Oceania with an amouncement ex-pected in February. Basketball Derby's DeRon Rutledge will be out of action for at least four weeks after or actions for at least tour weeks after sustaining a harrine fracture of a bone in his right foot during the Un-ball Trophy be against Manchester Gents on Saturday.

The NBA is expected to announce this week the hiring of referees Dee Kantner and Violet Palmer as the first women to officiate in a major league, all-male sports league. Kantner and Palmer, who have worked as referees the nest time pre-seasors, would be the past three pre-seasons, would be two of five new members of the 58-member NBA crew. The regular sea-son starts on Enday.

Boxing

Johnny Nelson will defend his Euro-pean cruiserweight title against Alexander Gurov on 16 December at a verue 22 miles from Chernobyl the Ukranian city which suffered nu-clear disaster in 1986.

The Australian players' union have moved to end their row with the Australian Cricket Board over pay and conditions. The Australian Cricketers' Association president Tim May has written to Denis Rogers, the ACB chairman, seeking a return to the negotiating table next week.

ppointed the all-rounder Wasim reappointed the all-rounder wasm. Akram to captein the national side and recalled wicketkeeper Rashid Latif for a four-nation one-day tournament starting in Lahore on Saturday, Wasim replacesSaeed Anwar after the left-hander's poor form failed to lift Pak-istan in the three. Test canes won hy istan in the three-Test senes won by South Africa who won the last match in Faisalabad on Monday by 53 runs. In Fassalada on Monday by SS runs. PAKISTAN SQUAD (Four nation, one-day bournament. Lahora. Seburday): Wasin Akram (capt). Saeed Anwar. Azmir Schal. Shahel Akrid. Jaz Ahmad Inzamam ul Hac. Mohammad Wasin, Mon Man. Pashid Labi. Wagar Youns. Apb Jased. Achar Mahmood. Saglan Mushtay Mohammad Husan. The Ment beast year. Topul. Jestik with be-

The Kent treasurer Yony Levick will be the county's president next season. Levick, 68, has served on the club committee since 1974. ONE DAY MATCH (Adelaide): Australian Cricket Academy 297 for 9 (50 overs): Australia tralia XI 279 for 9 (50 overs) Match tied.

Equestrianism Equestrianism

BRITISH HORSE TRIALS ASSOCIATION

AWARDS: Tony Collings Memorial Trophy (leading rider on points): M King, Calcutte Light Horse Trophy (leading horse):
Cosmopolitan II indien by W For-Pitt. Edy
Goldman Trophy (leading rider under-21):
F Fined. Martin Whiteley Trophy (leading rider not entitled to wear Union Jack
badge): C Ryan-Bell Horse Trials Support
Group 1997 Scholarship: J Brakmed
BHTA elected Board of Directors: M Abon.
R Capham. L Green, B Horseon, J Holder-

Gilingham have been told to pay an initial \$15,000 to Plymouth for the defender Mark Patterson by a Footbal League conditional tribunal, with a further \$10,000 payable after 10, 20 and 30 appearances. The Kent club will testife the first fitter that the part of the part

Wolves have agreed a \$500,000 fee with Rangers for the Scotland mid-fielder lan Ferguson. Middlesbrough have signed Southampton's Neil Maddison for \$250,000.

Plymouth are giving a trial to the Ca-nadian international defender Mark Watson. The 27-year-old, formerly with Watford, currently plays for the Swedish club Osters Vaxio. Giffingham's Paul Smith has had his

seruing off at Northampton on 18 Oc-tober reduced to a caution after ref-eree Gurram Singh was asked to view Motherwell have imposed a life barn on a fan who assaulted Aberdeen

keeper Jim Leighton on Saturday, Mar-tin Dillon pleaded guilty in court to the assault. The first-round draw for the Auto Wind-screens. Sheld will take place on Thursday 20 November and will be broadcast sive on Virgon Radio be-tween 5pm and 530pm. The final will be staged at Wembley on Sunday 19

April
ITV have secured a sports broadcasting sponsorship deal with Vauxhall. The car manufacturers have
agreed to pay S4m to back the channels coverage of the 1998 World Cup
finals.
MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Cerling
Promisinship: Lecester 2 West Ham 1, Dr MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Lecester 2 West Ham 1. Dr. Martens League First round second log-Chelmoloid Chyl Ashford Dwn 1 latter entering. Che million am 5-3 on agregated UnitBond League Challenge Gup Second round: Ashton Utt. 1 Rundom 2 Portlina teague Premier Devision: Liverpool 2 Mandrester Utt. 2, Stare Chyl 3 Preston North End. 1 First Division: Mandrester Chyl 2 Fort Wie 2; Sunderland 1 Welves 2, Second Division: Lancho Ckyl 4 Rochdale 2, Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Brighton: 1 Portland. 2 Mandres Chelsea C. Narward Ckyl 1 Laten Town 0.

Golf GOIT
EUROPEAN SENIORS TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL (Hardelot, Fr) Leading
first-round scores (GB or in unless
stated; The Pinear 68 C Garbernose (Auf);
71 F Abreu Sci. 72 J Doon 1: 451 B Gray
M Saler; 73 E Looke O Croi: M Hoyle; 74
D McCart, J Cabo (Sp): 75 F Graves (US)
J Hudson, T McCovan, R Whitehood, K
Steverson, The Dunear, 74 A Brooks, D
O Sulvan, J Domenster, Meth); 75 B Sandry, T Haplin, A O'Connor; 76 J Mc-Dermott, K Magnusson (Swel, J Halliwel, R Stem (US); 77 M Hooper, M Nutter, M Craig, R Landdon (US), A Guibeuf (Fr), G Moc-Denniel (Conn.)

SENIORS TOUR TEAM (to play the WPGA four, European Cup at Praise D'ol Rey, Portugal, 14-16 November): T Hor-ton (capt), N Ratchiffe (Aus), A Garndo (Sp).

Hockey
ENGLAND SQUAD (Tour of Egypt, next
monthly: S Mason (Reading), D Luckes (E
Gristeeth, J Wyatt (Reading), J Halta
(FDM), B Wasigh (Southgate), A Humphrey
(Carnock), J Pideock (Carnock), B Sharpo
(Carnock), B Cristehley (Carnock), M
Kochar (Reading), C Mayer (Carnock), B
Barnes (E Gristead), R Garcio (FDM), D
Woods (Southgate), D Hall (Gardord), C
Giles (Ken Switzerland), A Stripons (Southgate), B
Garrard (Teddington).

Motor racing Michael Schumacher could still claim honours in the final Champion Spark Plugs World Driver Bankings despite losing the World Drivers. Championship to Jacques Villeneuve. Schumacher, ranked above Villeneuve because of more top 10 finshes, tailed to clinich the top spot when he did not complete the European Grand Prix in Jerez.

JETEZ.
LEADING CHAMPION SPARK PLUGS
WORLD DRIVER RANKINGS: 1 M Schumacher (Formus One) 1002bs, 2 J VIlensure (Formus One) 507 3 J Gordon
(NASCAP) 903: 4 A Zenardi (CART) 857,
5 P de la Prota (Formus Napori) 833: 6 D
Jamet (NASCAR) 754, 7 G de Formi (CART)
751: 8 H-H Frentzen (Formus One) 833, 9
A Menu (Britch Touring Carts 691; 10 B
Schneider (Grand Touring) 673.

Rugby League Paul Atcheson, the Great Britain and Oldham full-back, has joined St Helens on a three-year contract. Atcheson, 24 moved to his home town club as a free agent after Oldham went into inquidation.

Rugby Union

Neath have released three players, Frenchmen Thierry Deverge and Fabnice Landreau together with fly-half

Tiaan Strauss, the former South African rugby union test forward has returned to the code after an stint in rugby league. Strauss, 31, played 15 tests for the Springboks between 1992 and 1994 and sperif the past two season at the Sydney club Cronulla. He has signed a contract with New South Wales.

Snooker

Domesic Dale, the Grand Prix cham-Dominic Dale, the cranic HTM cham-pron, has leapt 40 places in the Em-bassy World Rankings following his victory in Bournemouth on Sunday. The 25-year-old Weshman, who beat John Higgins 9-6 in the final to col-lect the £60,000 first prize, is up to No 14.

Hendry (Sco), 2 J Higgins (Sco), 3 M Williams, Wall, 4 K Doherty (#0; 5 R O Sullwan (Eng); 6 J Parrott (Eng), 7 A Robidou (Can), 8 T Drago (Mai), 9 P Ebdon (Eng); 10 N Bond (Eng)

Speedway MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Young Shield Semi-final, second leg: Exeter 53 Road org 37 Exeter wm 96-84 on aggregate

Jonah Barrington, the ex-British Open champion, yestorday rosigned as coach to the Dutch Federation. The 56-year-old, who was under contract until the end of next year, re-fused to specify the reasons behind his decision, but will stay on as a youth talent-spotter and lederation

TODAY'S NUMBER

850m

The number of dollars [£513.6m] earned by Formula One Holdings, the company which runs the sport, for the season just finished - mainly from television rights. The teams receive 47 per cent of profits. while Michael Schumach-

er's share was \$6.5m.



istani chcket selectors yesterday TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7,30 unless stated WORLD CUP EUROPEAN PLAY-OFFS FIRST LEG Croetia v Ukraine (5.0) Isi Maksanır stadırım, Zaga massina (7.0) ... t Utick Ut stadum, Budapest) ep of Ireland v Belgkum (Lansdowne Road, Duble) NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAST DIVISION Manchester City v Crewe (7.45) SECOND DIVISION Milwell v Bristol City (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

LEAGUE OF WALES; Carmarthen v Haver-lordwest. Convy v Cornahs Quay, Porth-madog v Caernarton (745). Rhoyador v Carmbran, Welshpool v Bangor City FA CUP Fourth round qualifying re-plays: Solhul Berough v Stalybridge Cellic, Famborough v Bognor Regs (745); Wichech v Gloucester (745);

v goodester (145).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP First round second log: Einh and Beheders v St. Leonards Stancock (745). Forest Geen Rovers 0) v Metthy 1704 (0) (745). RC Warwick (1) v Sulten Codheid (2); Trowbridge (3) v Salcbury (2), VS Rugby (1) v Hinckley Utd (3) (745). ISTHMIAN LEAGUE Full Mombers Cup First round: Molesey v Viciting raus round: Modesey v Vortifang.
UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Fars-kry Cettic v Whitty Challenge Cop soc-oid round: Boston Utd v Emby, Garsborough Tranty v Matlock; Winstord v Congloton.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: SEIDETTO / PERSON JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Cownton v Bournersal to 50 Rombey v Totton JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Feirstone & Suctury Wanderer: (745) SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Bratil March Farm v. Bratington, Taintin v. Bolerni 1745. UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First

Middloshrough : Grimste 170. West Bransech v Coventry (70: Second Division: State Lot : Romertain 170. Burring v Stockport 175. Whentam v Shrewbury (70. York v Banday (70: Third Division: Bury v Chester (75) Downstot v Scanborough (70: Starthorpe - Wigen (70: Warrall v New castio (74: AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charlen v Violitord (CG) Swindon v Arzenal (TS). Totavinam v Israela (TS), letturnam v Israela (TS), letturnam v Israela (TS), letturnam v

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH: Europa v Tonga (730)

CRAVEN SHIELD Final first leg: King's Lyrin v Controlly (745)

YOUNG SHIELD Final first log- Long Eason

Speedway

Maul the merrier: Republic of Ireland players celebrate victory in a training match yesterday as they prepare for tonight's World Cup match

Republic look to veterans for inspiration

The Republic of Ireland meet Belgium at Lansdowne Road this evening in the first leg of their World Cup playoff. Glenn Moore assesses the mood in Dublin.

Every morning, every day, Tony Cascarino is reminded of the World Cup. As a footballer playing in France, he can hard-

Unfortunately Cascarino does not relish being reminded about World Cups. His experience of the last two is unremittingly grim. In Italy he was dropped after the second game. In the United States he did not even play, having been injured before the finals began.

spending the next eight months chance to rewrite his personal time to get my confidence back. represent the other extremes in (nothing to do with the black changed with Gilles de Bilde's

something to dwell on. It could even encourage the Nancy striker to pursue Wimbledon's recent interest.

First Cascarino, against even his own expectation, has the chance to make amends. Tonight he will lead the Republic of Ireland's attack in their World Cup play-off first leg with Belgium. After five goals in his last four

hours international football. Cascarino is one behind Frank Stapleton's 20-goal Irish record. It is not something that seemed likely when he missed a good chance at a crucial stage of Ireland's last play-off, before Euro 96, against the Netherlands. "I never thought I'd be in this

situation," he said yesterday. "I'm hoping this will be third time lucky. The World Cup in The prospect, therefore, of Italy destroyed me. I had a move to Villa which was not the being bombarded with World best, and in Italy I was left out peak. Shay Given (21), Ian Harte

Being in France, seeing the preparations, is an incentive. Now I want to be able to show a few people what I can do."

Cascarino's career has enjoyed a revival since his move to France. With Marseilles, then Nancy, his ability, always greater than he was given credit for, has biossomed. "It's my fourth season in France and I've enjoyed being there. It's given me a long new lease of life, scoring goals has given me confidence and the style of play may have made me a better player - you never see any direct football there. I'm now more aware of what I need to do as a footballer."

Like the other Irish veterans Ray Houghton, also 35, and Andy Townsend, 34 - Cascarino has an important role in a team which has only one player, 28year-old Steve Staunton at his

tournament history, is not Then in America I was injured. a side which is still developing. "It is getting there," added

Cascarino. "We can get closer to the team we were from '90 when we had good players and were difficult to beat. We have good players coming through and hopefully it can continue." The young talent extends to the team which finished third in the recent World Youth Championship and beyond.

The success, in terms of profile and income, of the Jack Charlton era has led to a football boom in Ireland and Mick McCarthy, the coach, recognises the importance of World Cun qualification to maintaining it. The reason the game is booming is because of the performance of the national side. To keep that profile we must keep winning and keep qualifying" he

said. Not that McCarthy appears to feel the pressure. He Cup hype, without having the early on and it took me a long (20) and David Connolly (20) almost slid under the table would not be surprised if it

stuff) and threatened to limbo under it. "This is something to look forward to, it is a great game to be involved in," he said.

His team is chosen but unannounced. Speculation concerns one place which is between Alan McLoughlin, Jeff Kenna, Kenny Cunningham, and Townsend. Jason McAteer, whose club form has dipped, is unlikely to play.

Ten of the Irish squad are on a yellow card and will miss the second leg, on 15 November, if they are booked tonight. Mc-Carthy has not given them special instructions. "I just tell them 'Don't get booked for petulance, stupidity, retaliation." But you have to compete, have to put your foot in. I'd sooner have someone go into a tackle and get booked than pull out and the ball's in our net."

The Belgians have named a robable" team, but McCarthy

"thigh injury" clearing up. They are definitely missing Philippe Albert (retired), Enzo Scifo and Lorenzo Staelens (both injured) and their coach Georges Leekens has pronounced Ireland "red hot favourites".

"Has he?" said McCarthy. "It's all nonsense, all propaganda. We would be favourite at home, they should be favourites at their home. It's important not to concede goals but if we win and concede it's still a win." It could well be that no-one concedes but, whatever the result, the tie is unlikely to be settled tonight.

McCarthy happy with his finishing quality, page 28

Schumacher admits to error but not intent

Despite an apparent lack of contrition, Michael Schumacher yesterday denied he was trying to force Jacques Villeneuve off the track at Jerez on Sunday, calling his actions an error of judgement. But, writes Catherine Riley, he would say that, wouldn't he?

Following Monday's announcement by FIA, motor sport's governing body, that Michael Schumacher would have to explain his actions in Jerez to them next month, the German driver yesterday admitted today he was to blame for the collision with Jacques Villeneuve during Sunday's Grand Prix of Europe.

However, Schumacher denied he deliberately tried to force Villeneuve off the track as the Canadian went to overtake him on lap 48. Schumacher's Ferrari

ended up beached in the gravel and despite a heavy knock to the side of his Williams-Renault, Villeneuve managed to continue and finish third to take the drivers'

"I made a mistake," Schumacher admitted at Ferrari's Maranello headquarters in Italy yesterday. "I did not think it would be possible for him to do an overtaking manoeuvre at that point.

"I was really, really surprised. I obviously made the wrong judgement and a wrong manoeuvre, which put me out of the race. I made the wrong reaction and won't do it again. Initially, I thought it was Jacques' fault that I was out of the race.

"If I took someone out of champion - it just makes you look stupid.

"It was wrong. In the circumstances I over-reacted because I was determined to keep my position. I am human and, unfortunately, make mistakes. I do not make many, but will learn from it." Jean Todt, the Ferrari

driver, saying: Michael had exceptional performances this season. Ferrari is very happy to have a driver like him, and we hope to have him for several more years. "We did better than expected this year. I wish we can win the world title in

team manager, backed his

1998 - and without collisions," Todt added wrylv. Despite the widespread criticism Schumacher was

cheered by Ferrari mechanics and workers as he visited the factory. He was delighted by his

reception at Maranello, but admitted - perhaps narvely, perhaps arrogantly - to being somewhat surprised by the hostility to his mistake in the press. I have been misjudged by media very often - there was some overreaction," he said.

Although Villeneuve has publicly stated he believed the German deliberately tried to run him off the road. Schumacher was in expansive mood about his rival, saying he "proved a good fighter, a good contender. We had some beers together Sunday night, and I congratulated him. I see no problem in our relations for the next season.

He was not quite so generous about Damon Hill. however, saying Sunday's accident was not like to their controversial collision in Adelaide three years ago, which clinched his first world title.

"There are no similarities." Schumacher said. "Damon was nowhere near the race, it would be obvious. as inside as Jacques. There-It does not make you a fore you can still defend your position, and I am sure Damon is aware of this.

Zola given cold shoulder by Maldini in favour of Ravanelli

Winter in Moscow has proved a formidable opponent to the most ambitious of leaders and the Russian capital may yet prove the site of Cesare Maldini's undoing.

The coach - charged with advancing Italy to the World Cup in France via a two-legged play-off against Russia - has already experienced failure there as a player, when a 2-0 defeat in 1963 kept Italy out of the

subsequent visits in 1975 and 1991, Italy also failed to score against the Soviet Union.

"There's a first time for everything," mused Cesare Maldini as he announced a revised striking partnership for tonight's first leg with that very aim in mind. Recalled is the former Middlesbrough striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, now at Marseilles, who will partner Chris-

European Championship. On tian Vieri in attack. Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola and Alessandro del Piero will be on the substitutes' bench.

Maldini says Zola is not fully fit and named all but one of the team for tonight, with cither the Juventus defender Gianluca Pessotto, Lazio midfielder Diego Fuser or Parma striker Enrico Chiesa set to fill the remaining vacancy.

Zola's Chelsea team-mate,

the midfielder Roberto Dí Matteo, returns to the side after being suspended against England earlier this month, while Maldini will make his final team selection according to how the Russian team line up. Paolo Maldini passed a fitness test on

Tuesday and will captain Italy. Ravanelli, who last scored for Italy in last year's 1-0 win over Georgia, will be hampered by the snow that hit

Moscow this week and may fall again tonight. "The weather will be our ally," the Russia coach, Boris Ignatiev, yesterday.

Maldini senior is all too aware that it was goalless draws in Poland, Georgia and this month in Rome against England that set up this nerve-

wracking decider. "I wouldn't settle for a 0-0 result because it would be better to score an away goal," he

said, wary of Russia scoring in Naples on 15 November. Ravanelli said: "We have to win. Anything else is useless."

Useless indeed. The Italians have appeared at every World Cup finals since 1958, a fact that will weigh heavily on them. RISSIA (probable): Ovchimilov: Rovius, Ongolo, Isvelia, Kriestov, Radmon, Alenichev, Tidrorov, Karncheidels: Kolyvenov, Yurish. ITALY (probable): Papluca: Fuser, Nesta, Con-navera. Costacuria, Maldris, Baggis, Di Macheo. Albertini: Researell, Viori.

Fear in Moscow, page 28

Terry Venables and Bobby Rob-

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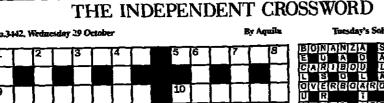
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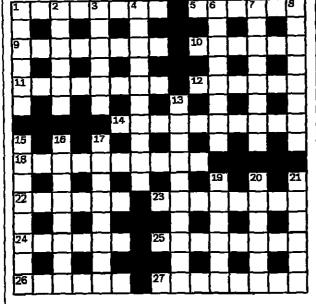
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- **ACROSS** Stock indication of a tenor, we hear (8)
- Glimmering? There will be wild gale before morning! (6) Popular writer to sign
- 10 Feeling of sympathy for 27 father, Thomas Short 11 Information on spa re-

his book, thus (8)

- sort is a gas (8) 12 One should delete section of soap-opera serial 2
- 14 Type of nettle in porce- 3 lain pot (5.5)
- 18 Current needed to show 4 light (7-3) 22 Strain of Severn man-

agement? (6)

- contain Sussex (8) 24 Wild region to pass over 8
- cret Oo! it's out! (8) 26 Packing that may blow in a heap? (6) Head injury, opening, needs sticking (8)
 - Curse, having bowled without weight (6)
- Inventor comes up with whistle, finally (2-4) Small-minded quarrel after noon (6) Menu of the bloated, possibly? (5-5)

day best? (4.4)

Happy with papers, Sun-

- 23 In a fine finish, one may 7 Jolly ancient letteropener (8) Suspicion of corrosion after condensation (8) 25 This should preserve se- 13 Eden garden, turned
 - over, was put at risk (10) Smart link with ruler (8) 16 Tolerating son's orientation? (8)
 - 17 How players get ready for the night (8) Scandinavian money under tree on the beach
 - 20 Abstract form (6) 23 Flowing, respiratory infection needs specialist department (6)

End of an era as Smith prepares to take new role

Walter Smith has helped Rangers continue their dominance of Scottish football for the past decade. David McKinnev reports on his move away from management and outlines his possible replacements

Rangers have drawn up a list of contenders for the manager's position at Ibrox after Walter Smith yesterday confirmed to an emotional group of shareholders that he will relinquish the reins at the end of the season. He was given a standing ovation at the club's AGM, and his departure will end one of the most successful periods in the

club's history. Smith presided over six championship victories and six cups and now hopes to lead the club to a world record 10th successive title before he takes on a new role at Ibrox. His decision to stand down was arrived at in the summer and discussed with David Murray, the chairman, before the recent Uefa Cup tie against Strasbourg.

which Rangers lost. Smith accepted he may have lost his edge. "There were with the job. His son, Tommy,

pressures on players which led is already on the coaching staff to difficulties on the European scene," he said. "That to me has been a disappointment.

pressure on the players came from me as manager. I felt after Strasbourg I was starting to become a problem with the players." Confirming that there is a

chairman said: "Loyalty is a big thing to me and no one has been more loyal than Walter. He's become one of the Rangers' greats and he has delivered success to the club." In keeping with tradition.

Smith's portrait will be hung in the manager's office along with every other manager in the club's history and when he has time to reflect Smith can be happy with his own contribution, the only black spot being his record in European competition, in which Rangers have persistently failed to live up to their promise.

"We won't make any announcement of a new manager until the New Year but we'll make sure the new man is well in place before the end of the season," Murray said.

The Finland coach Richard Moller-Nielsen is being linked

at Ibrox and he has already indicated he would consider it an honour to be offered the job. Other names being men-"However, I feit a lot of tioned include George Graham,

son as well as Graeme Souness. the former manager. There is no doubt the job is one for someone of character and stature who will be able to place for Smith at Rangers the appreciate the huge demands of supporters who have become used to constant success. Even given his record, there has been criticism of Smith from the fans this season.

His departure will inevitably lead to speculation over the future of Paul Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup. The two have been hugely influential players during the Smith era, with Gascoigne publicly praising his manager last weekend. The midfielder has promised to stay at Rangers in the meantime but his feelings could change when a new man is appointed.

Laudrup was subject to an offer from Aiax in the summer and decided to stay in Glasgow only after the personal intervention of Murray.

Those two, as well as members of the coaching staff, might now move on as Rangers look forward to a new era.

Ali Living